



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

**Congregational
Newsletter
December 2016**

Statement of Purpose

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

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE

- * Candlelight Family Service, 5:00 pm
- * Candlelight Communion Service 11:00 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

One Service 10:00 am

NEW YEAR'S EVE

New Year's Eve Service, 5:00 pm

NEW YEAR'S DAY

One Service, 10:00 am



A Hands-On Holy Land Experience

Sunday, December 11th
4:00—7:00 pm

Travel back in time and visit Bethlehem on the night of Jesus' birth.

- Make the bread with The Bethlehem Baker
 - Grind spices at The Spice Shoppe
- Visit The Woolery
 - Be counted at The Census Taker's Office.
- Come see The Stable
- End the night with a Birthday Party for Jesus.

Fun for all ages.
All are welcome!

10805 Main St, Huntley, IL 60142 • Phone: 847-669-9448 • www.sotp.org
Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.-noon, Mon-Fri

A Note From Pastor Mark

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Remember how you felt when you thought sure you would be awarded a prize, a ribbon or perhaps awaited the arrival of an important guest, and we did our best to be presentable and had our words all picked out, only to be passed over.

Our name never came up, we were forgotten and the guest cancelled. All these expectations we have had built up in our mind never amounted to anything but a shattered dream.



Do you think that the innkeeper would have given Mary and Joseph a first-class room had he known the significance of their visit?

Who would give a second thought to a pair of unknown strangers asking for a room when the sign said, "No Vacancy?" Either send them to the competition down the street or let them sleep in the stable was the best he could do. Well, certainly he didn't expect his establishment to be the birthplace of the world's Redeemer, did he? One wonders what he felt afterward.

Can you believe Christmas is near?

How do we sometimes know to whom we have really talked or entertained in our home?

Worse yet, whom have we turned away from our door when we had the opportunity to be helpful? You remember the book written a number of years ago by Dale Evans, "Angels Unaware." That title is referred to in Hebrews 13:2; "Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it."

It makes me wonder if I will have the opportunity to meet people that I perhaps was less warm to than others, in heaven. What will be my excuse?

That their visit was totally unexpected; or more honestly, surely some lame excuse that didn't hold water in my self-described effort to be a servant.

(Continued on page 3)

A Note From Pastor Mark Cont.

(Continued from page 2)

In all of us, our minds play tricks as we delude ourselves into thinking that we are more important than the next person even though God created us all equal and in God's own image to boot. However, since we have been given the freedom to think, we are often at odds as to what God would like us to do.

Christ said he will come again. For some, this is fiction, for us believers it is an expectation.

As this Christmas season comes upon us, think about these things the next time you answer your door, or await a guest, or have a chance meeting with a stranger, perhaps it is wise to take a different attitude as to what they have to say despite their looks or dress.

Let's not be like the innkeeper.

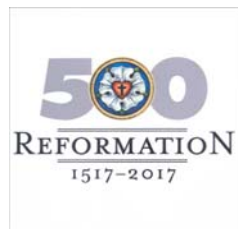
What are you expecting this season? Nice gifts, plenty of food, a good time, good health? On what are your expectations based? How about last year? Did your expectations turn to fiction? Why was that? Let us put our trust in God and live each day with the full expectation that when God comes, we are ready.

Advent and Christmas blessings to you and your family.

Pastor Mark

Adult Education News

Busy. Busy. Busy. So during the month of December, adult education classes will not meet. However, in January we'll begin anew as we continue our journey toward Reformation 500. There's so much to learn! Besides the Gospel of John and the Apostle Paul, who were the other great influences in Luther's life? And then there's the Small Catechism to be studied. And what about the other reformers: John Calvin, John Knox, and Ulrich Zwingli? How did they fit into the whole



(Continued on page 4)

Pastor Bill's Adult Education News Cont.

(Continued from page 3)

Reformation movement? And let's not forget the art and the music of the Reformation and, of course, the Lutheran church today. All this is coming in 2017. So when classes start up again in January, be sure to join us! As always, we'll meet on Sunday morning at 10:20, and on Wednesdays at 11:00 am and 7:00 pm. **Until then? Hopefully you've picked up an Advent Devotional Book and are using it, celebrating this season of preparation.**

Blessings to you.

Pastor Bill

Ministry Musings

One of my favorite Christmas songs is "Mary Did You Know". The words just seem to put in perspective the entire story of Jesus. At Christmas we think of a cuddly little baby, wrapped in blankets and lying in the manger. We enjoy the comforting picture of the angels visiting the shepherds and the shepherds in turn coming to the stable. And then there is the



greatness of the Wisemen bringing their gifts. All these things in the biblical narrative speak to our hearts and our souls.

But it is not often that when we think of the baby born in a manger that we think of the savior bleeding and dying on the cross and rising again. For the time being we put aside all of the imagery of Jesus and his disciples wandering the countryside healing and teaching and then the end in Jerusalem.

The babe in the manger is the same as the man on the cross. The joy of Christmas is dwarfed by the joy of Easter. Only in

(Continued on page 5)

Pastor Bill's Adult Education News Cont.

(Continued from page 4)

thinking of the entire span from creation to resurrection and beyond can we experience the complete story of God and his relationship with us. Both Genesis and John begin with, "In the beginning..." and the story will be complete when God renews his creation in its fullness.

The song, "Mary Did You Know," reminds me again each time I hear it that the God of creation, the I AM of the Exodus, the God of the prophets, the babe in the manger, the Jesus of Good Friday and Easter and the Spirit of Pentecost are one and the same; and that his story is not yet finished. He uses you and I to move the story forward until that day of completion arrives. May we be ready and willing to move forward in this journey.

If you would like to view the video of the song, "Mary Did You Know", please click here www.goo.gl/MVEuTT

Donna Kelly

2017 COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

The Coffee Hour schedule for 2017 is up in the Crossroads.

We are still looking for hosts for serving and clean up for the end of 2016 as well.

Coffee Hour is a wonderful part of our SOTP family ~ it's so much more than just coffee and treats.

Thank you to all who partner in ministry with us to host this important "family time" with our SOTP family.



2017 ALTAR FLOWERS SCHEDULE

2017 sign up sheets are up.

Please sign up in on the bulletin board in the Crossroads to sponsor altar flowers. It's a great way to celebrate something or to remember someone.

The cost is \$25 each. You can include this in your offering envelope ~ mark clearly that it is for flowers and the date it's for.

Please take the flowers home with you or share them with someone else after the 10:45 am service.

FORWARD IN FAITH... BUILDING TEAM UPDATE

Shepherd of the Prairie continues to move Forward in Faith:

- Three Mission Videos have been produced and shown at our three services:

- History of SOTP and Ministry in our New Space
- Worship and Helping Hands
- Youth and Confirmation



These videos may also be viewed on the SOTP website

- Sub-Committees have been formed with over a dozen additional SOTP members who will advise and give input to the Building Team on: Acoustics, Sound & Video; Security; Colors & Materials; Furniture; Storage; Phone & Internet; and Maintenance.
- Sub-Committees met October 20th with Groth Design Group; Members of the sub-Committees include Jane McMullen, Greg Dowell, Brian Ott, Carol Bletz, Renae Greene, Barb Pagano, Judie Symbol, Shannon Ross, Carol Waxenberg, Donna Newbanks, Carol Roth, Ralph Wehnes, Jerry Christopherson, Chris Trodahl, Tom Polzin and Dennis Lilla
- The Village of Huntley Plan Commission public hearing to consider our application requesting approval of our proposed addition to SOTP will be held November 28th at Village Hall.
- Letters of information regarding the public hearing have been mailed by SOTP to our neighbors identified by the Village of Huntley.
- The Village of Huntley Board meeting and Committee of the Whole is scheduled for December 8th . Our building addition will be on the agenda.
- Meetings have been made regarding the proposed sound system engineers.

Your Building Team is moving at a firm pace in order to begin the Bidding Process in January, 2017. Congregational Vote in February, with hopes of Breaking Ground on our New Mission Center in April/May, 2017. These dates are goals, and are fluid. Please pray for your Building Team and our congregation through this monumental and historic time here at SOTP.

And Yes, the FUTURE IS NOW!!!!!!!!!!

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN



Hope Filled Holiday -
1,000,000 Meal Packing Event

**Looking for a great way to
give back this Christmas?**

Looking for a way to serve as
a family, with friends and even
make some new friends? Feed
My Starving Children is doing
a Christmas challenge to pack
1,000,000 meals in a

MOBILEPACK

weekend. We were hoping SOTP could offer a little help. We have
volunteered 30 people to participate in this MOBILE packing event.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 10TH, 9:00 - 11:00 AM at the Renaissance
Schaumburg Convention Center. We will meet there and help pack
the meals.

If you have packed with us before, you know this is always a fun
event. If you are new, please consider giving this fun way to
volunteer a try. What a great way to get in the Christmas spirit!

CHRISTMAS DAY HELP NEEDED

WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR 5 VOLUNTEERS FOR DECEMBER 25TH.

We realize this is Christmas night, but, if this could work in your holiday
schedule, please consider volunteering for this very important ministry.

Thank you! **SIGN UP AT www.goo.gl/hi8WKv**

THANK YOU so much to everyone who volunteered for PADS!

What a great response we had! We are pleased to
say we have enough volunteers for October and
November.

We just need a little more help.



HOLIDAY BAZAAR ~ THANK YOU

I want to thank everyone who helped make our 13th annual Christmas Bazaar a success. Everyone who donated crafts and baked goods, helped to set up and take down the tables and the crafts, all the people who came to the Bazaar and purchased crafts and baked goodies, and everyone who helped to transport all the products.



**TOGETHER WE EARNED \$4,193.80
FOR OUR NEW BUILDING.**

We could not have done it without each and every one of you.

Thank you and God Bless You.

Alice and the Prairie Crafters

2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you have not yet picked up your 2017 offering envelopes they are available in the Narthex/ Crossroads. *Note: the envelopes have been changed slightly from previous years.* Even if you are on SIMPLY GIVING you still need to pick up offering envelopes. Your envelope number is how we post your offerings; and you are given special offerings envelopes to use for Lent, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Those envelopes can be used for special giving for the various agencies supported by SOTP.



Please include your NAME on your offering envelope. Please make sure you designate the funds on the envelope in conjunction with your pledge – general fund and Forward in Faith (building fund). We do not have time to verify against your pledge. Space is available on the envelope for special funds – food pantry, altar flowers, FORWARD and other special giving.

Please do not use the 2017 envelopes in 2016. As a reminder, we only keep financial records for anyone that has envelopes issued. If you want 2017 offering envelopes, contact Ralph Wehnes or the church office.

SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE SPONSORS THE STUBBS FAMILY

a missionary family in Tanzania. Check out their website at
www.StubbsMission.info

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

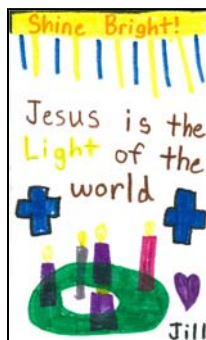


If you haven't picked up your Advent Daily Devotional yet, please pick one up. They are conveniently placed on the usher's table in the Crossroads.

Welcome to Advent—the time of year we remember Christ's three-fold coming: at the end of all time as King of kings, at his continual coming in Word and Sacrament, and at his first coming as a babe in Bethlehem!

Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas. This year that includes 28 days plus a couple of extra days, taking us to December 26. Here's one idea for using this book. If you have an Advent wreath, one candle is lit on the First Sunday in Advent and the days following, two candles on the Second Sunday in Advent, and so on. If you don't have an Advent wreath, a single candle will suffice for proclaiming Jesus as the Light of the world. After lighting the candle, you might observe a time of quiet to prepare your heart. Then there's a suggested Bible verse to read, plus a devotion, followed by a prayer. Often the devotion ends with a question or questions for you to consider.

The cover has been designed by either Jill Dobek or Luke Mejdrich.



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO SOTP FAMILY

We all like to send Christmas greetings and love to our family at SOTP. Instead of spending money and time on sending individual cards and postcards, why not bring in one card to post on our Christmas Bulletin Board in the Crossroads to give your greetings to all at once?



Then you can take the money you would have spent on sending those cards to SOTP members and donate it to FORWARD!

The bulletin board will be ready for your cards starting December 1st. To give your gift simply mark "other" on your offering envelope and write in FORWARD.

Merry Christmas!

STEWARDSHIP TALES



Two wealthy Christians visited Korea, where they saw a boy pulling a crude plow across a field, while an old man held the plow handles. One of the Christians, an attorney was amused—so he took a snapshot. “I suppose they are very poor” he said later when he showed the picture to a local missionary interpreter. “Yes was the quiet reply. “That is the family of Chi Noui. When the church was being built, they were eager to give

something, but they had no money, so they sold their only ox and gave the money to the church. That is why you saw them plowing that way.” The attorney and the businessman were silent. Then the businessman said, “That must have been a real sacrifice.” “They did not call it that, said the missionary. “They thought it was fortunate they had an ox to sell.” When they reached home, the attorney took that picture to his pastor and told him the story. “I want to double my pledge to the church,” he said “And please give me some plow work to do. I have never known what sacrifice for the church meant. A converted heathen taught me. I am ashamed to say I have never yet given anything to my church that cost me anything.” Have you?

SOTP SUPPER CLUB FELLOWSHIP

Start the New Year right! Meet and greet with new (and old) fellow SOTP Christians.

There are 4 ways to sign up or ask questions

1. Go to this link: www.goo.gl/jdRjQO
2. Yellow signup sheet on the Cross Roads Bulletin Board
3. Contact Sandy at sandyhupert@gmail.com
4. Contact Sandy by phone 224-569-6041

We gather in different groups of 6-8 people approximately 4 times from January – April, sharing a meal in the manner of each groups own determination. Singles welcome.



Sign up now!!!

THE GIVING TREE 2016



The Giving Trees are up.

We are again sponsor 26 families, 15 from Grafton Food Pantry and 11 from Turning Point, Woodstock. Turning Point helps and supports those who are going through abuse in families.

Gifts MUST be back by Sunday, December 11 for distribution. All gifts are to be NEW

items. **DO NOT GIFT WRAP the gifts**, as wrapping paper is given to each family. Please secure the tag to either the bag or box. A separate box will be available for gift cards only and large boxes will be available for packages.

These two organizations are so thankful for all we do for them and in our hearts, we know we are bringing joy to very needy families. If you have any questions, call **Barb Hoppensteadt** 847-669-0016.

NAME TAGS

More of our members are wearing name tags. It really helps visitors and new members meet other members. It's also a great way to match faces with names. One easy way to make everyone comfortable is to wear your name tag. If you have misplaced your name tag, you can order a new one at the "Welcome Center" in the Narthex/Crossroads. It also helps Pastor Mark with names as our membership is over 1000.



FOOD PANTRY

Weekend of December 3 & 4

is Food Pantry Collection Weekend at SOTP before all services

- Tomato Sauce
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Baking Items (Sugar, Flour, Salt, Cake Mixes...)
- Ketchup



AND AS ALWAYS,
CHECKS MADE OUT
TO SOTP WITH
"FOOD PANTRY" IN
THE MEMO WILL BE
FORWARDED

A NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM

Please join us for a Night in Bethlehem. Come one, come all... Have you ever wondered what it would be like to have been in Bethlehem on that First Christmas? Join us Sunday, December 11th sometime between 4 - 7 pm and experience. No charge, everyone is invited!

We still need volunteers to help us. We are traveling back to the night of Jesus' Birth by recreating the streets of Bethlehem. Join us in the marketplace Spice Shoppe, The Census Takers Office, The Stable, The Woolery, and The Pier. It all culminates with a Birthday Party for Jesus complete with hot dogs, cupcakes, music and a craft.



To sign up to volunteer, please go to:
www.goo.gl/2zKp9a

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Our SOTP 2016 special Christmas offering will be given to:

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF: HAITI

After Haiti's devastating earthquake in 2010 and hurricane Matthew in 2016, LWR has and is responding to the urgent and basic needs of the people in Haiti. This is often hampered by limited access and communication, particularly in remote areas. For this special Christmas offering, please use the **"MY CHRISTMAS OFFERING"** envelope if you have one or designate it in the memo portion of your check or on your envelope.



Please remember, this is in addition to, not in place of, your regular weekly offering.

CLEANING OUT ADULT ED ROOM

Time to clean out! Churches are notorious for collecting items that are never used again. So during the month of December the adult education room (*Pastor Bill's office*) will be cleaned. This means that all the drawers and cupboards will be gone through and anything not claimed will be thrown away. If you have anything you want to save, please claim it before December 1. After that, it will be gone! Questions? Contact Pastor Bill.



Trends

“Other” Religions

Our children and teens have been created in the image of God for a relationship with God. Sin has destroyed that relationship. Consequently, all creation groans for redemption, renewal, and restoration to that relationship. The evidence of this groaning can be seen in today’s youth culture in the way that so many kids wear their spiritual search on their sleeves. Sadly, the search leads many of our spiritually broken kids to faith systems and options that are anything but biblical, true, and right. Recent research shows that a growing number of kids are pursuing the spiritual dead-end of what are known as “other religions.” These are religions outside of the mainstream religions. Some of the fastest growing include Wicca, which has more than doubled since 2001, neopaganism, and other forms of the occult. We must teach our kids the truths of God’s Word. What they need is not an answer, but THE answer.



Latest Research

Teen Rebellion & Food Choices

If you’ve ever taken the time to carefully observe the curated nature of the grocery aisles, you’ll know that the cereal aisle is set-up in ways that catch our attention.

The adult-targeted healthy cereals are placed on the higher shelves so they are eye-level with adult consumers. The cereals targeting the younger set are placed on the lower shelves so that their colorful packaging containing sugary flavored treats catches the eyes of kids. Researchers have

found that we might be able to push back on these marketing ploys by encouraging our teenaged kids to indulge their rebellious natures. The study has found that teenagers will make smarter eating choices after learning about manipulative practices used by food companies, such as engineering junk foods to become addictive. Parents, from now on you might want to say, “Eat your vegetables, because junk food companies just want to turn you into a Zombie!” This is one more way to teach your kids to tend to their bodies as a way to bring glory to God!

QUICK STATS

- A recent survey found that 23% of Brits admit to posting fake vacation related images on social media. (Oasis Drinks)
- A study has found that teenagers who use electronic cigarettes are 6x more likely to move on to smoking traditional tobacco-filled cigarettes compared to kids who never use e-cig devices. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

WHAT KIND OF PARENT? - WALT MUELLER, CPYU PRESIDENT

I've got a 30-year-old memory that still haunts and motivates me to this day. It haunts me because it showed me the kind of pressure too many kids have to endure. It motivates me because it drives me to push myself and other parents to not make the same kind of memory for our kids.



It was a crisp fall Saturday and I was seated with thousands of others in a high school football stadium. Along with lots of other curious folks, I turned to look at the father who was standing and screaming loudly at his son. "Come on! What's wrong with you? You need to make that play!" Finally, another parent couldn't contain himself, and he yelled at the noisy dad. "Come on John! You'd think that was you out there." Without skipping a beat, the accused responded with some frightening words: "It is!"

After years and years of listening to kids, searching the Scriptures, spending time with families, and pondering research, I've come to the conclusion that one of the most unhealthy and destructive things we can do to our kids is to live through them. You see, what happens is that we put undue pressure on our kids to perform and achieve on our behalf. We do this through sports, academics, appearance, and all kinds of other activities. In fact, Christian parents can sometimes seek their own value and worth through the spiritual state of their children. All this does is create an environment where our kids come to believe that our love, time, and attention is conditional on their performance, rather than on the fact that we simply love them.

In his book *Parenting*, Paul Tripp differentiates between Ownership parents and Ambassador parents. Ownership Parenting is motivated and shaped by what parents want for their children and from their children. If we choose to parent in this manner, we are driven by what we want our children to become so that we get something in return. . . like a stellar and perfect performance on the gridiron so that we can be validated ourselves.

Because our children belong to God rather than to us, we need to

(Continued on page 15)

YOUTH CULTURE NEWS

(Continued from page 14)

adopt a posture of Ambassador Parenting. Tripp says that an Ambassador is one who faithfully represents the message, methods, and character of the leader who has sent him. Everything she does, every decision she makes, and every interaction must be shaped by this one question: "What is the will and plan of the one who sent me?"

Which type of parent are you? Paul Tripp reminds us that "parenting is not first about what we want for our children or from our children, but about what God in grace has planned to do through us in our children.

What steps do you need to take to ease the pressure on your kids and follow Jesus into His parental calling. . . that you become an Ambassador Parent and avoid the posture of an Ownership Parent?

YOUTH CULTURE NEWS

These are certainly uncertain times. In fact, reading the news and watching our political/cultural situation unfold might leave you feeling like this month is the most uncertain period of life you've ever experienced.

The times are changing. In so many ways, the familiar and comfortable foundations that we've become so familiar with that we take them for granted, are shifting beneath our feet. Of course, this is nothing new or unusual. Biblical history and world history reveal that times of certainty are actually few and far between. In the midst of this, God comes to us and says, "Trust me. I am doing something that whether you understand it or not, is part of a bigger picture and plan that I am working out to my Glory in the world."

Joshua faced similar uncertainty as he was preparing to lead the nation of Israel into the promised land after forty years of wandering. As he faced an imposing great unknown, God said these words: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9). God is with us!

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

~Joshua 1:9

DECEMBER SCHEDULES

		December 3 & 4	December 10 & 11	December 17 & 18	December 24 & 25	December 31
Presiding Minister		Pastor Mark Boster				
Altar Guild	5:00 SAT	Becky Tuzik, Sue Mattiucci, Tom & Darlene Polzin			Judie Symbal	
	9:00 AM	Sue Wehnes & Donna Newbanks			10:00 AM	
	10:45 AM	Merrily Burkland and Sandy Hupert	Jan & Don Koerner	Darren and Pam Wallach	Sandy Peterson and Marlene Boehler	
Altar Flowers	Weekend	Adele Wogstad	Grant & Linda Jahr	Christmas Decoration	Christmas Decorations	
Assisting Minister	9:00 AM	Carol Waxenberg			10:00 AM	
	10:45 AM	John Boehler				
Coffee Hour Hosts	SUNDAY	Tom & Betty Knawa		Cheryl Adams & Marilyn Schnell		
Coffee Hour Treats	SUNDAY			Ressler Family		
Communion Bread	5:00 SAT	Jill Brown				
	SUNDAY	Donna Brown	JoAnn Ward	P.J. Knudsen	Jeff Cordle	
Communion Stewards	5:00 SAT	Tom & Darlene Polzin				
	9:00 AM	Judie Symbal, June Kobler, Randi Dawson & Donna Sorensen			10:00 AM	
	10:45 AM	Sandy Hupert, Marlene Boehler, Don & Jan Koerner				
Counters	Weekend	Ralph Wehnes, Warren Brody, Donna Turner				
Greeters	5:00 SAT	Betty Knawa	Linda Murphy	Karen Eckert	5pm Stevie Masse i& Becky Tuzik 11pm Linda Murphy	Wilma Lyding
	9:00 AM	Joanne Klinger & Terry Halpin	Randi Dawson & Terry Halpin	Donna Reynolds & Terry Halpin	10:00 AM	
	10:45 AM				Bob & Carolyn Malm	
Nursery	9:00 AM	Jen Kolcz	Judie Symbal	Jen Powe	12/24: 5pm help needed	
	10:45 AM	Jen Powe	Blue Geller	Jocelyn Doden	12:25: 10am help needed	
	Clean Up	Jen Powe	Blue Geller	Jocelyn Doden		



DECEMBER SCHEDULES (Cont.)

		December 3 & 4	December 10 & 11	December 17 & 18	December 24 & 25	December 31
Readers	9:00 AM	Randi Dawson Donna Sorensen			10:00 AM	
	10:45 AM	Carl Hupert				
Rejoice Worship Band	10:45 AM				10:00 AM	
Sound- board	5:00 SAT	Dan Willis	Dan Willis	Dick Brush	Dick Brush	
	9:00 AM				10:00 AM	
	10:45 AM					
Ushers	5:00 SAT	Don & Barb Hoppensteadt	Doreen Drinan & Sue Mattiucci	Becky Tuzik & Carol Hartman	5pm: Andrew Szekely, Becky Tuzik & help needed 11pm: Bob McDuffee & help needed	Don & Barb Hoppensteadt
	9:00 AM	WAYNE SCHMIDT Jerry & Marty Bergman Waren Brody John Jensen Walter Lemke	JACK CONTI James Blanchard, Chris Hinde, Merlyn & Harriet Thompson Marlene Tresp	ROY RANKIN John Arneson, Chris Solem Walter & Carol Roth Carol Engstrom	10:00 AM John Boehler & help needed	
	10:45 AM	BOB MCDUFFEE, John Richardson, Paul Ross, Chris Swanson	MARK FRENDEIS Patrick Fleener, Charlie Powe, Andrew Szekely	JOHN BOEHLER Don Koerner, Darren Walloch Vik Bekeris		
Visuals	9:00 AM				10:00 AM	
	10:45 AM					
Welcome Center	9:00 AM	Mary & Jack Conti	Nancy Ottinger & Cheryl Adams	Jan Suski & Joyce Thompson	10:00:00 AM Joanne Bychowsky	
	10:45 AM	Noreta Walker & Debbie Lindquist	Marty Jacobsen	Elaine Neukirch & Judy Petroplolis		
Worship Leader	Sat	Michael Waal				
	Sunday					

If you aren't currently involved in ministry at Shepherd of the Prairie and would like to find your niche, please contact Donna Kelly at donna@sotpmail.com or the church office at 847/669-9448.

There are so many different ways to get involved, you may be our missing piece!



FINANCIAL NEWS

Treasurer's Report - Operating Budget Year-to-Date as of October 31, 2016:

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
General Fund Income:	\$ 505,197.71	\$ 478,790.00
General Fund Expenses:	\$ 460,408.66	\$ 478,820.00
Net Income:	\$ 44,789.05	\$ (30.00)

General Fund Notes: Through October operating income was more than expenses by \$44,789.05. Member contributions are over budget by \$32,084.97. Expenses are under budget \$18,411.34. Overall General Fund Income is more than Expenses to Budget YTD \$44,819.05 primarily due to unfunded Provision Accounts, prepaid pledges, controlled staff costs, and increased member contributions. 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 October 31, 2016:

Building Fund Begin Balance 10/01/2016:	\$ 192,880.21
Debt Reduction Donations	\$ 4,142.00
Building Fund Donations	\$ 0.00
Forward in Faith	\$ 469,714.36
FORWARD	\$ 104,089.68
Mission Plus Interest Income	\$ 2,839.38
Memorial Donations Building Fund	\$ 0.00
Building Fund Income/Donations:	\$ 580,785.42

Loan Principal Payments	\$ 38,348.07
Loan Interest Payments	\$ 15,071.93
Principal Only Payments	\$ 3,667.00
Capital Campaign Expenses	\$ 829.90
Architectural Expenses	\$ 44,453.18
Construction Manager Exp	\$ 000.00
Other Phase II Expense	\$ 6,161.50
Building Fund Total Expenses	\$ 108,531.58
Net Income(Loss):	\$ 472,253.84
Ending Fund Balance:	\$ 665,134.05

We continue to accumulate funds in the Forward in Faith (Building Fund) and FORWARD accounts per Council direction and Congregation approval.

The October month end building loan balance is \$489,193.67. 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

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jacob Guttenburg, Elizabeth Anderson
- 2 William Chapman, Mark Fren dreis, Tess Miller
- 3 Marlene Tresp, Mike Ulmer, Tim McMullen
- 4 Brady Allegretti
- 5 Jackson Moretti, Raquel Hess
- 6 Lisa Berens, Amanda Stenson
- 7 Barb Douglas, Daniel Black
- 8 Hallie Guttenburg, Mike Maraviglia
- 9 Donna Schnepff, Larry Rapach, Jim Lindquist
- 10.... Dave Kosmen, Sophie Dowell
- 11 ... Sherry Perkey
- 12.... Ericka Berti, Megan Juergensen
- 13.... Devin Burg, Carolyn Cuttle
- 14.... Patricia Lidbury
Macy Luedtke, Katie Desiato
- 17 ... Richard Stashwick, Katie Ostrem, Martha Bergman, Seth Boster, Nancy Ramirez, Shane McGuine
- 18.... Ella Trudeau, Elaine Mucibabich
- 19.... Susan Mattiucci, Emma Johnson
- 20.... Enrique Rojas, Karen Gollhardt, Jack Bloomfield, Sandy Frank, Wilma Lyding
- 21 Tristan Mathiesen, Andrew Raistrick, Chuck Little, William Waxenberg, Daniel Wills, Alexandra Adams, Deanna Moore, Sandra Seibel, Lynn Meyer
- 24.... Mary Ann Wiek, Marina Reicher, Carol Goodhue
- 25.... Jake Satalino, Jim Henley
- 26.... Chelsea Greene, Darlene Polzin, Matthew Ostrem
- 27.... Carol Lilla, Amy Johnson, Shelby Kowalski, Darrel Thompson, Hannah Retzlaff
- 28.... Ernie Clifford, Patricia Mallow, Mike McCann, Taylor Wade, Annette Boster
- 29.... Chuck Lamb, Robert Weldon
- 30.... Karen Mulcay, Michael Grabs
- 31 P.J. Knudsen, Pat Milford

STAFF AND CONTACTS

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Annette Boster, Cherub Choir

Michael Waal,

Blessings & Treasures Choirs

Denise James, Joy Ringers

Michael Parmele

Sunday School Director

Sue Wehnes, Renae Greene

Contributions Secretaries

Congregation Council

Mike McCann, President

Matt Greene, Vice President

Amy Brittain, Secretary

Jim Henley, Treasurer

Adam Adams

Marlene Boehler

Cliff Dungey

Bud Hansen

Bob McDuffee