



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

**Congregational
Newsletter
April 2018**

Statement of Purpose

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

BUILDING TEAM NEWS

First Meeting held in NEW Office Space!

Yes, it looks a
little sparse,
BUT just wait till you
see it when it has :
*New flooring * Desks*
*Tables * Lights*
Drywall finished
And yes.... even Paint!

But, it has the most
important feature of
all..... PEOPLE!



We were so crowded on a Sunday morning that Donna Kelly had to hold a meeting in Pastor Mark's future office.

The sun shines brightly, so God's work can continue to go on!

GO VISIT YOUR NEW SANCTUARY AND OBSERVE:

- Beautiful stone altar and matching pillars built solid throughout the sanctuary
- Clerestory stones climbing to the beams with beautiful sunlight shining through
- New lights being installed throughout the spaces to welcome future members

We, indeed, are building a Beacon of Light to our neighbors!

Come and observe God's work!

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,

It was the women who moved first to the normal tasks of tending to the body.

And it was the women who did not need very much convincing that Jesus truly did go to his Father.

They, too, listened at the feet of Jesus (although in the background). Maybe, rather than analyzing what they heard there, they discussed it with each other.



EASTER

Was it easier for them to believe the resurrection, and recognize it when it happened?

The men, we are told, were in hiding, probably afraid for their lives. They did not understand what had happened; they had been so hopeful!

Only Peter investigated the good news that the women brought to them. Peter, who probably learned to trust Jesus' word more easily after denying him three times, raced to see if all that Jesus told them had truly come to pass.

Peter helped the others rejoice in the resurrection – and understand that it was what they should have been looking for – because they were Easter people!

There was nothing to fear. They would be with Jesus in eternity, just as he promised.

Have you heard the expression, “every Sunday is Easter Sunday.” It is a reminder that we should take time, at least once a week to express our joy that the tomb is empty. We have hope!

Rejoice in the knowledge that we are Easter people! We live in the resurrection's promise every day. We don't have to wait for it. We can ask God to roll our stones away, and leave them at the foot of the cross.

We can look at the resurrected Jesus to lead us to an open and loving heart. Easter, is a celebration reminding us our sins have been washed away, and that our role is to reflect God's love. We are Easter people, Jesus Christ's resurrection was for you. We are called to race into the world to tell others of God's love with words and, more importantly, by our actions.

Peace,

Pastor Mark

Adult Education News

Christ is risen! Alleluia! Our "alleluias" are back! Back because Christ lives and we live too--in a relationship with him that begins now and continues beyond the bounds of death.

During Lent we compared the Passion story of Jesus in the four gospels. All tell the same story of Jesus' suffering and death but each tells it differently. We're going to continue that pattern during the month of April. All four gospels tell us the story of the resurrection of our Lord, but, again, all tell it differently. So we'll read and compare them: Mark first, then Matthew, Luke, and John. Come join us! We meet on Sunday mornings at 10:20, on Wednesday mornings at 11:00, and Wednesday evenings at 7:00. There won't be any classes on Easter or the following Wednesday, but we'll begin on Sunday, April 8, and on Wednesday, April 11. See YOU then!



Pastor Bill

Ministry Musings



The new worship space is getting closer to being done! So exciting!! And daunting as well! We know that once we are worshipping in our new space, we will have many visitors coming to take a look at it. How do we make these visitors feel welcome and possibly see Shepherd of the Prairie as their worship home?

One way is to look out each week for someone you don't know and introduce yourself and your friends to them. I know we all like to visit with our friends and catch up on what the past week or weeks have been like, but put yourself in the place of a new visitor... you walk into the building and there are groups of people clustered together. You aren't sure of where to go or what to do. You get a bulletin from the usher and then stand off to the side, watching all of the conversation going on, but no one comes up to you to say hello; the best you get is a quick smile as they rush past. So you watch and file into worship with the rest of the people. As you sit in the pew and look around, the people sitting next to you are busy with their conversations and no one pays much attention to you or says hello. Worship begins, and you feel comfortable with it and enjoy the service. You attend communion and people did greet you with the sharing of the peace,

(Continued on page 4)

Ministry Musings Cont.

(Continued from page 3)

but still you feel on the outside looking in. The service ends and you walk out into the gathering space. They keep talking about the “crossroads” but you have no idea what that is. You stand in line and get a cup of coffee, but still no one has said hi, they just give you quick smiles. You see a big window with a sign that says, “Welcome Center”, but so many people are standing in the window area talking that you really can’t get near it. So you quickly finish your coffee and head out the door, unsure if you will be back again. One more visited church crossed off the list!

Or, maybe you walk into the building and a greeter says hi and welcome to worship. The friendly usher hands you a bulletin, introduces him or her self and mentions they don’t believe they have met you before. You take a moment to say this is your first visit and they again say welcome and invite someone standing nearby over and introduce



you to them. They may move off to do their “job” but now the person you just met talks with you for a little bit and even introduces you to several of their friends. Now you are not standing alone, but in a small group of people and you don’t feel so “on the outside looking in”. It’s almost time for worship to begin so you go into the worship area and find a seat by yourself. Shortly a person comes and sits beside you and says, “I don’t believe I’ve met you. My name is _____”. You introduce yourself and they tell you they are glad you are there. You tell them this is your first visit at Shepherd of the Prairie and they make you feel glad you came.

Again you enjoy the worship service and at the end your new friend says, “Come on over to the Welcome Center, we have a gift for you”. They take you over and introduce you to the people at the Welcome Center window who invite you to fill out a card with your contact information and then they “mug” you. They also introduce you to some of their other friends who are also welcoming and seem genuinely happy you are there. You leave the building and walk to your car glad you came, thinking you just might come back again. Tuesday in the mail comes a postcard from that nice couple you met at the Welcome Center. The card thanks you for coming and hopes you’ll come again. On Friday you get a hand-written card from a lady at the church who thanks you for being in worship, gives you her cell phone number and email and says to let her know

(Continued on page 5)

Ministry Musings Cont.

(Continued from page 4)

if you have any questions. You are going back again! Each time you do, someone greets you and introduces you to friends of theirs and invites you to participate in the next activity with them. You feel so welcome that you invite your neighbor to come with you the next weekend. I've been the visitor in both scenarios; maybe you have too.

This is just a simple reminder that it only takes a few minutes to introduce yourself and say hi to someone you don't know. And it's OK to introduce yourself to someone and find out they are already members. You've just met someone new whether they are a visitor or not. Sometime even members can stand by themselves watching things going on and feel lonely.

We don't do things perfectly, but when we welcome another, we are welcoming them in the name of Jesus!

society.

Donna Kelly

NEW MEMBER GATHERING

"Come and see!" Jn 2:46b. If you have been worshipping with us for a while here at SOTP and would like to know more about us as a worshipping community, we would love to have you join us at our New Member Gathering. We will be offering the gathering on **Sunday, April 8th from 3:00-5:30 pm.**

This will be an opportunity for you to learn more about the life and ministry of SOTP and for you to consider prayerfully whether or not you want to formally become a member of the SOTP family.



We will welcome new members on the following **Sunday April 15th.** If you have any questions, please contact either Pastor Mark or Donna Kelly through the church office.

PRAYER CHAIN

Please Join Our Prayer Chain

Pray
without
ceasing
1 Thessalonians 5:17

We are blessed with a wonderful prayer chain.

To add a prayer request or if you would like to start receiving prayer requests to pray for them please e-mail **SOTPprayers@gmail.com**

THE BARNABAS CAREGIVING PROGRAM

THE FIRST DUTY OF LOVE IS TO LISTEN - Paul Tillich



As you may know, the ELCA's Comprehensive Ministry Review Team spent a weekend with Shepherd of the Prairie last October. One of the recommendations they had for SOTP was that we begin a Barnabas Caregiving Ministry here. We are taking the first steps to make that happen and this can be an exciting step in ministry for SOTP.

WHAT IS THE BARNABAS CAREGIVING PROGRAM?

It is a simple, effective program for training volunteers to give care in most institutional and home situations. Giving care means having conversations with those who are homebound, in care facilities or facing some of life's most difficult seasons to provide a listening ear and encouragement to those who need to be heard and cared for.

WHAT IS A BARNABAS MINISTER AND WHAT DO THEY DO?

A Barnabas Minister is a skilled listener who encourages others by that listening. They are trained in how to listen effectively, how to build relational skills, and in how to encourage others. They will also be trained to bring Communion from the Assembly to the special person they visit.

THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS TO SERVE AS A BARNABAS MINISTER:

- Caring for a loved one in your home
- Caring for a congregational member who is homebound
- Caring for a congregational member in a care facility
- Serving on a hospital visitation team
- Caring for a person dealing with a life issue

After attending the training, participants are eligible to be commissioned as Barnabas Ministers. After training, each trainee will be able to choose whether or not they wish to make a commitment to be a Barnabas Minister, and what form of service that will take.

Training: Saturday, April 14th, 9am to 2pm

Come and see if this is where God is calling you to serve.

To make a reservation for training or for more information

contact Pastor Mark, pastormark@sotpmail.com or

Donna Kelly, donna@sotpmail.com .

EASTER OFFERING

Our Easter offering will be divided equally between the following charities:

- ⇒ HOME OF THE SPARROW provides housing and services to homeless women and children. They provide opportunity and support to overcome homelessness by offering case management services, educational programs and parenting support.
- ⇒ COMMUNITY CRISIS CENTER- ELGIN provides emergency shelter for women and children in Kane County. They provide 24 hour crisis help and no-cost counseling, food and other help.
- ⇒ TURNING POINT is the only domestic violence shelter in McHenry County. They provide a hot line 24/7, 365 days a year. This agency has a mission to confront violence against women and children.



HELP WANTED! GRANT WRITER

Grant Writer



The Mutual Ministry team is looking for a grant writer. Mutual Ministry is a small group of people who meet regularly with the Pastor Mark to provide a safe and confidential environment for him to share new ideas, blessings and concerns he may have about his ministry. The Council has just approved his taking a sabbatical in 2019 and in order to help pay for the sabbatical and the staff to cover while he is gone, he would like to apply for a grant. If you are someone who can help, please **contact Jessica Panella** at 847-489-2827 or hawkeye886@comcast.net. Thanks so much!

BOOKS, GAMES, DVD, VHS, CD & MORE

Spring Cleaning? If you have books, games, DVDs, VHS or CDs that you don't want any more, drop them off in the church office. The money from selling these to Half Price Books will go toward our FORWARD fund for the new addition to our building. Drop off in the office, black drawer marked for these items under the mail slots.

FOOD PANTRY

Weekend of April 7 & 8

is Food Pantry Collection Weekend at SOTP before all services



THIS WEEKEND ITEMS NEEDED: DEODORANT, TOOTHPASTE, FEMININE NEEDS, CANNED FRUIT
AND AS ALWAYS, CHECKS MADE OUT TO SOTP THAT STATE "FOOD PANTRY" IN THE MEMO WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE FOOD PANTRY.

Contact: Alice Hallett agrndmom3@gmail.com

FOOD PANTRY SORTING

Help needed:

Saturday April 14th, 9:30am-
12:30pm (Approx)

Help the Boy Scouts sort & box food
for the Grafton Food Pantry

Please contact Jill Brown, 847-683-5027 or
jillbrown14@yahoo.com



NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK

Please mark your calendars accordingly **SATURDAY, MAY 19, 9:00 - 11:30 AM** so you can help do God's Work with Your Hands at the Northern Illinois Food Bank. The Mission Team has committed our church to provide 70 volunteers to help put together food items to feed our hungry neighbors. There are also sit-down jobs that contribute to the projects - Simply let us know. Whether you have been there or not in the past, you will discover how great it feels to assist.

A Saturday date was chosen so that families (children minimum age 8) have a better chance of participating together. It is a great learning experience for people of all ages. Please consider signing up. If you have any questions, or want to sign up, please call Dave or Sharon Stangle at 224-628-2107 or email stangle.ds@gmail.com

Participants are invited to meet at church by 8:00 AM and carpool to 273 Dearborn Ct., Geneva, IL, or you can go directly there, arriving by 8:45 in time to confirm registration, gather together for a prayer, and begin working. We will end by 11:30.

*As the Isaiah 58:10 tells us,
"Feed the hungry and help
those in trouble, then your
light will rise and the
darkness around you will be
as bright as day."*

NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK

Feeding Our Hungry Neighbors | Volunteer. Donate. Get Involved.

WWW.SOLVEHUNGERTODAY.ORG

SEND KIDS THE WORLD

As you travel, near or far, please buy some 4 x 6 postcards. Mission Team is bringing back the project to send postcards to children with life-threatening illnesses.

Try to select postcards that are eye appealing to children. As you know, children enjoy receiving mail, even the old fashioned way. Look how happy this young girl was made from receiving postcards. You can place them to Sandy Hupert or any member of the Mission Team. They can also be put into Mission Team's mailbox inside the office.



The weekend of **April 21 & 22**, GEMS will be asking you to fill out postcards at church to send to these kids.

The project is "Send Kids the World".

Feel free to go online to learn more about this program, <http://www.sendkidstheworld.com>. As Ephesians 4:32 says, "Be kind and compassionate to one another."

SPRING BAZAAR & BAKE SALE THANK YOU!



A large THANK YOU to all who donated to our new sanctuary by making our bazaar and bake sale a success! The Table Movers, the Bakers, the Crafters, The Sellers, and the Buyers.

Thanks to all of you we are adding \$1,430.25 toward our new sanctuary!

FEMALE FRIDAYS

Join the women of SOTP for a night out! These nights are for all women of SOTP to get together for a night of dinner and fellowship.

**The next Female Friday is
Friday, April 11th at 6:00 pm**

Jameson's Restaurant in Huntley



Please RSVP to Joanne Schwartz at 847/659-1740 or joanneschwartz@comcast.net so we can have a reservation big enough to accommodate everyone. Looking forward to seeing you!

SAVE THE DATE! ~ UPCOMING EVENTS



STUBBS MISSIONARIES AT SOTP SERVICES
Sunday, April 29

NORTHERN IL FOOD BANK, **May 19, 9am**
BUILDING DEDICATION FESTIVAL SERVICE
Sunday, August 5, 2:00 pm

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, **July 23-26**

ANNUAL PICNIC AT DEICKE PARK
Sunday, August 19, 12:00 Noon

BLOOD DRIVE AT SOTP
Sunday, August 26, 8am - 2pm

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING
Sunday, September 23

SOTP MUSIC MINISTRY REHEARSALS

CHILDREN'S BELLS & CHOIRS WEDNESDAYS

- ⇒ Blessings Choir (3rd - 8th grade)
4:30 - 5:10 pm (K-1 Room)
- ⇒ Cherub Choir (toddlers - 2nd grade)
5:00 - 5:20 pm (Big Sunday School Rm)
- ⇒ Chimers ring & sing (kindergarten -
2nd grade) 5:30 - 5:50pm (Big Sunday
School Room)
- ⇒ Jubilate Bells (3rd grade - 5th grade)
5:15 - 5:50 (Sanctuary)



ADULT HANDBELLS Tuesdays, 7:00 - 8:30pm

ADULT CHOIR Wednesdays, 7:15 - 8:15 pm

Contact: Jane McMullen Jane@sotpmail.com

HABITAT RESTORE



The third Thursday monthly a group of 4-6 people from SOTP help at Habitat for Humanity's Restore, Elgin. We work from 9:AM- 12:PM.

NOT CONSTRUCTION WORK, HELPING OUT IN THE STORE ONLY.

To sign up please contact: Carl Hupert

224-569-6041 or Carlhupert@gmail.com.

LITTLE LAMBS REGISTRATION OPEN



We started accepting registration for the 2018-2019 school year on **February 1st**. Our preschool has programs for children ages 2-4 (by September 1, 2018).

CHILDREN DO NOT NEED TO BE POTTY TRAINED.

Our class sizes are small (not more than 10-12 per class). 1, 2, 3 or 4 day classes are available to both members and non-members. For more information please contact Jill Gillming at

LittleLambs@sotpmail.com or go to our website and look under FORMS for CLASS REGISTRATION.

SAFEGUARDING GOD'S CHILDREN

We are hosting a "Safeguarding God's Children" workshop on April 28th from 9am - Noon.

The workshops are led by members of the Northern Illinois Synod's Safe Church subcommittee. The goal of the workshops is to provide participants with the information they need to protect the children they know and care for in the personal lives and the ministries in which they serve.



This training is for all who work with children in the congregation and community. All are invited!

Offered free of charge through the Northern IL Synod, ELCA

Register on-line at nisynod.org/safeguarding-gods-children

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE



This month's stewardship message comes from Martin Luther:

"We cannot give God anything; for everything is already His, and all we have comes from Him. We can only give Him praise, thanks, and honor."
This is most certainly true!

SPRING FLING & FAMILY FUN EVENT



BRING THE KIDS, GRANDKIDS, NEIGHBORS
AND KIDS DOWN THE STREET!

SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 4-6 PM

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!

Celebrate spring with our Spring Fling Children and Family Fun Event". We will have fun, food, dancing and games. It is all at the church. Interested in helping, we could use your help! Watch for sign ups for volunteers & participants in the Friday Flourish.

Contact: Mike Parmele at mike_parmele@yahoo.com

SUPPER CLUB

**LOOKING FOR AT LEAST 32
PEOPLE WHO LIKE TO EAT!**

EAT GREET AND MEET

*(Any 4 times from May through
the end of August)*

SupperClub
FOOD & FRIENDS

WELCOME ALL, can you believe it is already time to sign up for the summer supper club??

Once again, there is a yellow sign up sheet on the Crossroads bulletin board for the Spring/Summer Supper Club or click on [this link](#) to sign up.

May through August we will be sharing hospitality and food within small groups of 6 to 8 people. Groups are made up from the sign-up list. Singles are welcome.

Each group determines what, when and how they will meet. Often one home hosts the main meal while others bring salad, desserts, etc. Some groups decide to "eat out" or "order in" for one or all of their meals it is up to the folks in that particular small group.

For more information or questions please contact Sandy Hupert. Phone 224-569-6041 or E-Mail sandyhupert@gmail.com better yet click on above link and sign up today! We will get back to you early in the Month of May. À BON APPÉTIT!

FRIENDS BIBLE STUDY



The Friends Bible Study Mondays **from 12:30 - 2:00 pm**. All women are invited to join us at SOTP. We will once again be studying a book of John by Warren Wiersbe

Contact: Joyce Thompson 224/858-4541 or
Carol Gerhardt 847/683-2746

BUILDING ON FAITH

A big THANK YOU to all who have already committed to our BUILDING ON FAITH campaign. Many FAITH items have been gifted and some have chosen to give “as needed”. We are overwhelmed by the response to your generosity. The date of occupancy is getting closer every day. We



hope you have had the opportunity to walk through the new construction and see just how large and beautiful it will be once completed and furnished with the FAITH items. Please remember that all gifted items will be recorded in the memory book. You may choose to make your dedication in memory of loved ones, to honor someone special or celebrate a special occasion.

We urge you to check the campaign board in the CrossRoads for daily and weekly updates. Building on Faith brochures are available at the campaign table. Your gift with your choice may be returned through the offering baskets. On the more expensive items you can always do a partial or share on those items with other families. Team members are available for your questions and concerns. Please do not hesitate to call any of the following:

Sue Wehnes – 224 569-2808 * Cliff Dungey – 847 515-7863
Deb Hansen – 847 340-0558 * Larry Newbanks – 847 659-9149

MEMORY GARDEN

The committee has been formed to investigate putting a “Memory Garden” on the grounds at church. The committee members are



Ellen Nissen, Evelyn Gniot, Keith Steen, Ron Knudsen, and Ralph Wehnes. Pastor Mark and Carol DeFiore will serve as advisors. After Easter we will prepare a member interest questionnaire that will be emailed to all members. Hard copies will also be available at church.

HOLY WEEK AT SOTP

Over Holy Week, we will be blessed with the presence of many people coming through our doors.

- ⇒ Please introduce yourself and make them feel welcome.
- ⇒ Please park in the FRONT Municipal Building parking lot (*enter off of Main St.*) to allow visitors and those that need to park close to park in our lot. (*You can drop off your passengers off at our front door first*)



Thank you for your partnership and have a blessed Holy Week.

EASTER LILLIES

Your Worship Committee and Flowers would like to thank everyone for their help in making Easter beautiful with Easter Flowers. We appreciated your support in making spring come early to SOTP.

By the way...you can plant the Easter lilies once they have died back outside. Some folks have had them rebloom later in the summer. You can take the tulip, daffodil and hyacinth bulbs and dry them out. Then plant them in the fall for spring flowers in 2019.

Thank you again for your support!!!!



FINANCIAL RECORDS



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 want envelopes, contact the Church office.

STUBBS MISSIONARY VISIT TO SOTP

Randy and his daughter, Marissa, part of our sponsored missionary family in Tanzania, will be visiting SOTP on **Sunday April 29th**. They will be presenting special music, slides and experiences with us during our two worship services that morning. Their last visit about three years ago was both inspirational and informative. Pray for their continuing mission of spreading God's word.



An update on the rest of the family: Carol has been continuing to improve and gain strength now that she is in remission from a rare leukemia, She recently had a MRI and results show lesions on her spine caused by active multiple myeloma. Megan has finished her masters degree and was married April 5th in Tanzania and Nathan is continuing his studies at the University of Texas.

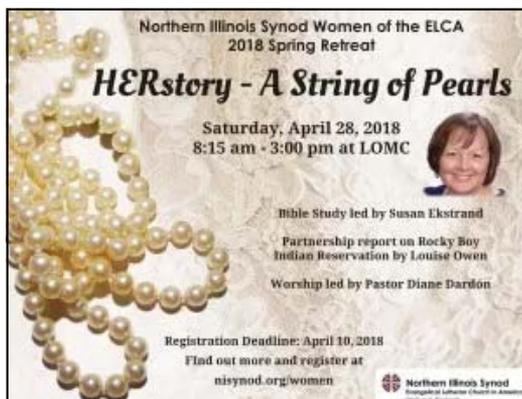


**SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE SPONSORS THE STUBBS FAMILY
MISSIONARY FAMILY IN TANZANIA.**

WOMEN'S RETREAT

NORTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD WELCA RETREAT APRIL 28, 2018

All women of the congregation are invited to attend the NIS WELCA retreat on Saturday April 28th from 8:15 am to 3 pm at LOMC in Oregon IL. Bible study will be led by Susan Ekstrand and worship by Pastor Diane Dardon. For more information go to www.nisynod.org/women Registration deadline is April 10 and cost is \$35. Register on line or forms are available in the SOTP office by the staff mail slots.



COFFEE HOUR



Coffee Hour is: "God's people connecting in fellowship and fun!" Coffee Hour is so much more than coffee & treats, but they are the foundation of this valuable time. We need help. If you're interested in helping out with hosting, bringing treats, or both please let us know!

Coffee Fellowship

Contact Pam Sandberg, 847-917-4418, pammies@ymail.com

NAME TAGS

More of our members are wearing name tags. It really helps visitors and new members meet other members.

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 1100.



TRIVIA NIGHT



Creation Restoration 8.0 Trivia Night Sunday, April 22, 5:00pm

The plans for this summer's mission trip are well underway. The key to a successful trip is having an open mind and heart to love and serve as well as to be loved and served. We've got that covered with several willing students and adults who are ready to go!

WHAT WE DON'T HAVE COMPLETELY COVERED IS FUNDING.

Our biggest fundraiser is right around the corner and we need your help, our annual Trivia Night is April 22.

- Do you have a service that you could donate? .
- Do you sell something amazing that could be donated?
- Could you donate a game or two of your season tickets?
Theater tickets?
Your timeshare?

We are looking for fun items that we could auction off to help make more money. Of course you will get advertising at the event as well as much appreciation from the CR8.0 family.

Please contact Greg Dowell at 847-917-4734 if you have something to donate.

Think you know trivia? Come test your trivia skills at our Shepherd of the Prairie/Creation Restoration

TRIVIA NIGHT

FUNDRAISER

sunday, APRIL 22 5PM-8PM

RAFFLE BASKETS

DINNER

50/50 RAFFLE

DOOR PRIZES

JANEY CAKES

GAMES

\$15 PER PERSON

TEAMS OF 8
(SINGLES AND PARTIALS WELCOME TOO!!!)



Preparing for Difficult Conversations

By Jason Soucinek



Budding romances and new relationships are all just part of the pressures a typical teenager will face with regards to their sexuality. Here are four thoughts to consider as you prepare to have difficult conversations around each of these and how best to communicate your values surrounding your son or daughter's choice to live with sexual integrity.

#1 - Communicate your value and communicate it often. I can't emphasize how important it is that your teenager knows what is important to you as a parent and why. Your voice has power... believe in it! If you want your teenager to wait to have sex, then tell them directly and give them a reason. Become the authority.

#2 - Listen and listen some more. Ask questions, check-in, and hear their thoughts. Also, take advantage of those opportunities where you get to overhear their friends sharing or even what you see on your teenager's Facebook, Twitter or Instagram accounts (sometimes those are the most telling) and follow up.

#3 - Respond out of love, not anger. If you end up hearing or being told something you don't approve of, remember that taking time to breathe, reflect, and seek discernment might give you (and them) the best opportunity to respond. Creating a safe place for your teenager to respond is important and can change what and how they share in the future.

#4 - Own your stuff. Sometimes the decisions your son or daughter makes can bring up your own past mistakes. Be sure you've forgiven yourself before you work through the mistakes your teenager might make.

YOUTH CULTURE HOT QUOTE

I don't really consider myself famous in any fashion. To me, I'm just goofing off on camera for six to eight hours a day. That's what it literally feels like. And when I'm done, I'm downstairs with my daughter and beautiful wife, disconnected from the online world. - *Guy Beahm, known on the video game streaming service Twitch as DrDisRespect, speaking about family and fame, RollingStone.com,*



From The Word

Your teenagers will make mistakes. They will fall into sin. They will do

wrong. They will disappoint you. How should you respond? Christian counselor and parenting expert Dr. Paul Tripp offers some great advice in his helpful book *Age of Opportunity: A Biblical Guide to Parenting Teens*.

He reminds us that we need to demonstrate to our children “how the Bible interprets, explains, and organizes life.” Tripp writes, “Don’t resort to on-the-fly, ‘This is what I think about it’ or ‘Do it because I said so’ responses.” Your teenager needs confidence in Scripture as God’s source of wisdom and understanding about life. He needs to grow in his ability to use this amazingly sufficient resource.

Each circumstance also provides an opportunity to demonstrate how the Bible makes sense out of the things your child faces each day. The goal is that he would really embrace Scripture as a “lamp to my feet and light to my path” (Psalm 119:105).

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and light to my path.” PSALM 119:105

From The News

RIISING SUICIDE RATES There’s sad news from the

realm of adolescent mental health. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are reporting that the suicide rates for adolescent boys and girls have been steadily rising since 2007. The suicide rate for girls ages fifteen to nineteen actually doubled between 2007 and 2015. Suicide among teen girls has reached its highest point in the last forty years. Among our fifteen to nineteen year old boys, the suicide rate increased thirty percent between 2007 and 2015. It is safe to say that teen suicides have reached epidemic proportions in today’s youth culture. The message for parents, youth workers, and teachers is clear: we must familiarize ourselves with the causes and signs of teen suicide. And, we must exercise diligence in building our relationships with the kids we know and love, so that they will not only know that someone cares for them, but that they will know they have someone to go to if they are struggling with depression.

Trends

Video Gaming as Varsity Sport

We've come a long way since the first video game was released for mainstream use. Do you know what that game was and when it

debuted? It was back in 1972 that the Atari corporation released the two-dimensional game known as Pong. For those of you who remember those days you can recall just how

amazing we all thought that original Pong game was. Fast forward 46 years and almost half of all U.S. households report owning a dedicated gaming console. Additionally, 63% of households are home to at least one person who plays games at least three hours a week. With video gaming moving from coin-operated arcade games to the bedroom, you might not be surprised that our love for video games has resulted in some colleges making video gaming a varsity sport. Yes, that's really happening. While there is nothing wrong with video gaming, parents should be limiting gaming times and the types of games they allow their children to play.



Latest Research

Gen Z, LGBT and Atheism

Recent research from the Barna Group sheds light on some trends we need to be aware of regarding Generation Z, who are the 70 million kids born between 1999 and 2015.

Teenagers in Generation Z are at least twice as likely as American adults to identify as LGBT or as atheist. The folks at Barna correctly assert

that these realities post new ministry challenges for Christian parents, youth workers, and the Church. Among other things, this research affirms that our teenagers are in the process of exploring and adopting answers to two basic questions. First, "who am I?" This applies more and more to discovering how to embrace and live out their God-given gift of sexuality. And second, "what do I believe?" While there are many strategies we can employ to help our teens navigate these questions, one strategy is primary. From a young age, we must be educating and catechizing our kids into a deep understanding of the truths of God's word. Christian education is not optional.

- Teens and adults who stay up late on weeknights are more likely to gain weight over time than their peers that head to bed at an earlier hour. (*Sleep*)
- Participating in youth tackle football prior to age 12 doubled a player's risk of suffering from issues related to behavioral regulation, executive functions, and apathy. In addition, the risk of eventually suffering from clinical depression tripled. (*Boston University's Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy Center*)

QUICK STATS

FINANCIAL NEWS

Treasurer's Report as of February 28, 2018

We move Forward in Faith and will meet the anticipated growth that occurs as a result of the New Sanctuary and additional Pastoral needs of our growing congregation. Praise the Lord!

Operating Income and Expenses are within the Annual Budget for Income and Expenses. Through the first two months contributions met expectations. The surplus for January was the transfer of \$26,250 of Prepaid Pledges received in December and February income was \$12,000 under the expected contributions.

Building Fund The Building Fund Balance is \$185,504 and we have used \$2,200,168 from the Construction Loan. Loan funds are used to pay construction and interest costs each month. During the month Forward in Faith donations totaled \$21,936 which is below the budgeted \$40,000 expected. Building Fund construction and interest expenses related to the new building were \$482,391 for the month.

Fixed Assets As construction progresses on the new building there is a significant increase in the value of the Fixed Asset for Building and Grounds which is now at \$5,138,621. The increase is \$2,193,135 higher than last year.

General Fund	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Over/Under
Income:	\$ 130,877	\$ 115,382	\$ 15,495
Expenses:	\$ 101,124	\$ 114,388	\$ (13,264)
Net Income:	\$ 29,753		
Fund Balance:	\$ 176,992		

Building Fund		
Income:	\$ 463,552	(\$441,507 from Loan proceeds)
Expenses:	\$ 482,391	
Fund Balance:	\$ 185,504	

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel L. Wentzloff
Church Treasurer

faith and
finances

Do You SHOP AMAZON?

Shop AmazonSmile.
When you select SOTP as your nonprofit,
Amazon donates 0.5% of your eligible SOTP.

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

We have received **\$548.29** so far toward the new building.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 2.....Nicole Stoica, Mary Tabatt
3.....Robin Anderson, Kristen Bala, Dave
Frederickson
4.....Amy Casablanca
5.....Mary Lee Rishel, Darlene Soest, Marilyn
Wilhelm
6.....Dorothy Carlborg, Jessica Dawson, Janet
Suski
7.....Lynn Moran, Larry Scimeca
8.....Stacy Rapach, Lindsay Sparks
9.....Roger Clausen, Edward Cuttle, Mitchell
Flanagan, Carol Forsythe, Cole Raines,
Addison Raistrick, Dave Ressler
10....Paige Cordle, Camden Dean, Donald
Kundich, Kerry Miller
12....Colton Allegretti, Orlo Austin, Frank
Cesario, Andrew Ressler, Eloise Torkelson
13....Suzanne Alpert, Delainey Black, Jack Conti
14....Catherine Johnson, Marc Piskule, Cecilia
Ramey
15....Kathleen Bloomfield, Kim Frendreis, Jianna
Trevino, Wylder Weston
16....Jill Behm, Linda Dungey, Ernest Hermes,
Jennifer Huston, Lilly Lee, Roberta Seroni,
Lila Stegge
17 Dan Hollow, Seth McCulloch, Kathy
McGuine
18....John Boehler, Marcie Schlachta, Alan
Torkelson, Fred Wilhelm
19....Angela Crase, Luke Palermo
20....Troy Fleener, Zachary Ulmer
21....Jeffrey Cordle
22....Dean Dobrolinsky, Allison McCann, Calle
Mejdrich, Dan Wentzloff
23....Kyle Frendreis, Matthew Kann, Jeff Roberts
24....Doris Pizzillo
25....Carol Didricksen, Carol Larson, Kane
Luedtke
26....Janice Burseth, Rebecca Hennessey, Jill
Lamb, Jamison Mathiesen, Kelvin Walker
27....Andrew Brown, Ronald Elam, Evelyn
Farnam
28....Walter Roth, Ethan Schoenberg, Nolan
Schoenberg
29....Jenny Territo
30....Ken Lemke, Justin Rapach

STAFF & COUNCIL

STAFF

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CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Marlene Boehler, President

Matt Greene, Vice President

Amy Brittain, Secretary

Dan Wentzloff, Treasurer

Adam Adams

Cliff Dungey

Bud Hansen

Sheri Ott

Nancy Ottinger

APRIL SCHEDULES

		April 1	April 7 & 8	April 14 & 15	April 21 & 22	April 28 & 29
Presiding Minister		Pastor Mark Boster				
Altar Flowers		Easter				Paul & Sandra Lemke, celebrating their 50th anniversary
Altar Guild	5:00	Sue Mattuicci, Tom & Darlene Polzin				
	9:00	Donna Newbanks & Sue Wehnes				
	10:45 AM	Sandy Hupert Merrily Burkland	Jan & Don Koerner	Marlene Boehler Sandy Petersen	Jan & Don Koerner	Darren & Pam Walloch
Assisting Minister	9:00 AM	Gregg Gillming				
	10:45 AM	Mike Yndestad				
Bulletin & Newsletter Folders	FRI		June Kobler Annette Carlson	Marian Mesenbrink Marlene Tresp	Barb Krmpotich HELP NEEDED	Elaine Neukirch Donna Turner Alice Hallett Bonnie Baysyer HELP NEEDED
Coffee Hour						
Coffee Hour Treats		Congregation	Carole & Frank Cesario, celebrating Frank's 87th Birthday	Friends in Faith		
Communion Assistants	SAT	Tom & Darlene Polzin				
	9AM	Judie Symbal, Adele Wogstad, Ralph & Sue Wehnes				
	10:45 AM	Sandy Hupert, Keith Steen, Jodi & Zoe Dowell				
Communion Bread	SAT	Merylyn Schnell				
	SUN	JoAnn Ward Lanita Palermo	Joann Klinger	Michelle Saletta	Tom Noesen Bev Pinnelli	Nancy Morbeck
Counters		MON	Warren Brody, Dottie Bobzin, Fred Wysk			
Greeters HELP NEEDED	5:00		Stevie Massei	Steve Murphy	Karen Eckert	Dorothy Willis
	9:00 AM	Elaine Brody Terry Halpin	Alice Murphy Terry Halpin	Carol Bletz Terry Halpin	Annika Yndestad Terry Halpin	Elaine Gillam Terry Halpin
	10:45 AM	Bob & Carolyn Malm				
Nursery HELP NEEDED	9:00 AM					
	10:45 AM					
	Clean Up					

APRIL SCHEDULES (Cont.)

		April 1	April 7 & 8	April 14 & 15	April 21 & 22	April 28 & 29
Sound	5:00 SAT		Dan Wills	Dan Wills	Dick Brush	Dick Brush
	9:00 AM	Jim Rice	Tom Polzin	Jim Rice	Tom Polzin	
	10:45 AM	Brian Ott	Tim Torkelson	Brian Ott	Tim Torkelson	
Readers	9:00 AM	Ralph & Sue Wehnes				
	10:45 AM	Carl Hupert				
Rejoice Worship Band	10:45 AM	VOCALS: Chris Brittain Kim Szekeley DRUMS: Brian Buesing	VOCALS: Annette Boster Dana Turk, Jen Huston	VOCALS: Chris Brittain Kim Szekeley	VOCALS: Nicole Jacek Sam Johnson, Shonna Rankin, Alan Torkelson GUITAR: Harry Choin Trevor Dowell DRUMS: Brian Buesing KEYBOARD: Allison McCann	
Ushers	SAT 5:00 PM		DENIS MINUTILLO Carol Minutillo	RANDI DAWSON Steve Murphy	CAROL HARTMAN Sue Matiucci	JIM MURPHY Diana Murphy
	SUN 9:00 AM	JOHN BOEHLER Mike McCann Vik Bekeris Joanne Bychowsky Barb Pagano	JACK CONTI Merlyn Thompson Harriet Thompson Marlene Tresp	VIK BEKERIS Dan Wentzlof Joanne Bychowsky Roy Rankin	ED CUTTLE Carolyn Cuttle Jeff Stipes Harold Doege Joan Doege Ralph Wehnes	WAYNE SCHMIDT Walter Lempke John Jensen Joanne Bychowsky Warren Brody
	SUN 10:45 AM	11:00 am ANDREW SZEKELY Bob McDuffee Vik Bekeris Jessica Panella Sandi Stewart	MARK FRENDREIS Charlie Powe Vik Bekeris Sandi Stewart Andrew Szekeley	JOHN BOEHLER Darren Walloch Don Koerner Jessica Panella	BOB MCDUFFEE Vik Bekeris Dick Gerhart Chuck Petersen Jodi Dowell	BOB MCDUFFEE Vik Bekeris Chuck Peterson Jacob Fiandalo
Visuals	9:00 AM		Josh Harding	Josh Harding	Josh Harding	
	10:45 AM	Jack Ott	Alan Torkelson	Jack Ott	Alan Torkelson	
Welcome Center	9:00 AM	Carole & Frank Cesario	Cheryl Adams Alice Miller	Jan Suski Joyce Thompson	Donna Allen Joanne Schwartz	Bonnie & Chuck Bayer
	10:45 AM	Marty Jacobson Sandy Werner	Tom & Betty Eberly	Elaine Neukirch Judy Petropolis	Keith Stein Joanne Bychowsky	
Worship Leader	SAT					
	9:00 AM	Michael Waal				
	10:45 AM	Tyler Greene				

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