



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

Congregational
Newsletter
October 2020

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

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

**CONFIRMATION
SERVICE
SUNDAY, OCT 25
10:45 AM**



CONFIRMATION
Affirmation of Baptism



*Due to limited seating,
there is only room
for confirmands & their
families at this service.
We hope you join us at
9am or online!*

**DRIVE THROUGH
FOOD DRIVE
OCTOBER 3
9AM - 1 PM
Shepherd of the
Prairie
10805 Main St,
Huntley**

Collecting non-perishables, cash &
checks made out to
GRAFTON FOOD PANTRY



A Note From Pastor Mark

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This year our Stewardship team has challenged us with God's word, "what shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me." Psalm 116:12. These words are a calling upon each of us to consider how we use gifts of time, talent and treasure entrusted to our care.

We have all come into this world with nothing. We have only survived because someone provided the care and nurturing we needed when, as infants, we were helpless. From that time on, we have been provided for through the grace of God. God provides for us for two reasons.



First, because God loves us and finds joy in giving us what we need.

Second, because God wants us to share with a world that needs his love through us.

Our acts of

righteousness and our service to God's world is, in a way, an unspoken "thank you" to God. A generous heart is just as important as the goods we distribute – it defines who we are on the inside. An attitude of gratefulness allows us to freely give away something of ourselves. The decision to share blesses both us and the receivers. They may see your good works as evidence of your faith in Jesus.

In the Deuteronomy 24:19-22, God reminds the people that there was a time when they were slaves in Egypt and had very little of their own. God tells them not to forget that history, so that they will appreciate having something now to share with others. It's a reminder to not use all that we "harvest" for ourselves, but to allow some to remain as a gift to those less fortunate than us.

Do you remember a time when you were without something that you now have? (For example, skills, finances, a job, friends, etc.)

Consider sharing your story, and the gratefulness you feel. What "seed," given to you by God, have you stored away? (For example, talents or skills.) Are you willing to share this with others? How is God's Spirit calling you to give to ministries close to your heart? How has God made you overflow with grace and kindness? What ideas can you share with someone who needs a friend? How does that serve God?

Peace, *Pastor Mark*

*Pastor's
Corner*

Adult Education

We've now completed our study of 1 John and are ready to move on to something new! What follows is an introduction from Pastor Curt Gerald who'll be teaching for us during the month of October. His focus will be on Paul's writings to the

Thessalonians. These letters were most likely the first ones that Paul wrote, at least the first ones we have. So come join us! Once again, you can access these video sessions by going to our church website, www.sotp.org, and look under New Content. Or, you can wait for the blast email each week; or you can go to our church's Facebook page.



"This year was honestly life changing. I'm glad it's almost over." (Posted recently on Facebook by "Quotes Zoom In.") It seems to me that one of the words that has been used most frequently to describe 2020 has been "unprecedented." But there have been other times in human history that have been unprecedented and life-changing. Pastor Bill has worked through several of those times and events. During the month of October, I invite you to join with me in a brief look at what happened to Paul and because of Paul's visit in a place called Thessalonica.

Session 1: 1 Thessalonians, Resources, History, Timothy's Report, Living to Please God, and the Day of the Lord.

Session 2: 2 Thessalonians, Lawlessness, Standing Firm

Session 3: Lamentations

Session 4: Living in a time when the future is a threat

Pastor Bill

Ministry Musings

Forgiveness

One of our recent Gospel lessons was Matthew 18:21-35 which was a lesson from Jesus on forgiveness. In this passage, Peter comes to Jesus and asks how many times he needs to forgive a fellow member of the church (a brother or sister). "Seven times"? he queries. Jesus says not just seven times but seventy-seven. As a kid I remember wondering if that meant I should keep count and when I got to seventy-seven I was done forgiving that person!

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Ministry Musings (Cont.)

(Continued from page 3)

Of course we know Jesus doesn't mean for us to keep count. In Jewish thinking seven is a holy or a perfect number. Maybe Peter used seven as a perfect number to say, "Lord do we need to practice perfect forgiveness?" And Jesus is saying, perfect isn't enough you must practice forgiveness that is even



greater than perfect! WOW! Perfect forgiveness is nearly impossible, but greater than perfect???? What is Jesus asking of us? I think he is saying that forgiveness isn't to be conditional or limited in scope. We need to forgive absolutely and completely. If you're still counting how many times you have forgiven someone, you're not really forgiving them at all, but simply postponing revenge. Please know that I am not talking about enduring an abusive relationship. That can be a completely different situation.

Forgiveness is not always or even often easy. When we have been hurt deeply and the relationship has been broken in some way, it is hard to let go of the hurt and we forgive. But instead often we nurse the anger within us; rehearsing the situation and what they did to us and how much we have been hurt. We go over the incident again and again in our minds, and repeatedly tell the story to ourselves and others. We want retribution! We want them to pay for what they did! We want vindication! But withholding forgiveness is often more damaging for us than for the person we don't forgive; and unforgiveness can be like a cancer that eats away at us and the body of Christ as a whole.

Then after Jesus' words to the disciples, he goes on to tell a parable of an unmerciful servant who is forgiven a huge debt, impossible to repay. This servant then goes on to be unforgiving of a fellow servant who owes him a tiny amount. The king who forgave him punishes him in a terrible way. Jesus says afterwards that if we expect to be forgiven, we must forgive. The same idea is included in what we call the Lord's Prayer. We ask to be forgiven in the same way we forgive others, and Jesus says that's how God will forgive us.

I've often wondered if Jesus is saying that there are limits to God's mercy and forgiveness. It's difficult for me to reconcile a merciful God with one who also withholds forgiveness if I don't forgive. Then I read a commentary on this where the author wrote, "Forgiveness is more like the air in your lungs. There is only room for you to inhale the next lungful when you've breathed out the previous one." That really made me think. When you breathe in and hold that breath, your body

(Continued on page 5)

Ministry Musings (Cont.)

(Continued from page 4)

will quickly extract all of the oxygen out of that air filling your lungs. If you don't exhale that breath so you can breathe in another one, you could actually suffocate! Until you exhale that breath there is no room for you to breathe in again. I wonder if that is the same way with forgiveness and what Jesus meant by his words. As long as I hold in my forgiveness, refusing to exhale that forgiveness out to others, I have no space to inhale the forgiveness God has for me.

Like our lungs are either full or empty, our "hearts", are either open or closed. If our heart is open, able and willing to forgive others, it will also be open to receive God's love and forgiveness. But if it is locked up to the one, it will be locked up to the other as well. How is your heart? Locked up to others and therefore to God and his forgiveness; or open to both God love and forgiveness and your love and forgiveness to others?

Donna Kelly

PADS UPDATE

McHenry County PADS

They will be doing everything on their own for the first month and then will figure out needs from there.



Contact: Vik Bekeris
vikb1706@gmail.com

With COVID-19, things are a little different than normal. PADS shelter is going to handle things on their own for October and then let us know how we can help from there. For now, please keep all in your prayers. Thank you for your partnership in ministry.

Contact: Vik Bekeris vikb1706@gmail.com

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Back to the Basics
Saturday Night Worship
Just In a New Setting
Come and ...

Worship
With Us.
on the parking lot

**EVERY OTHER
SATURDAY
CONTINUING
THRU OCTOBER
(October 10 & 24)**

- Print bulletin at home (www.sotp.org)
- Arrive and park before 5pm & follow guidelines for parking (parking attendants will be directing you)
- Sit in your car or in a chair by it (maintaining 6 foot distance from others)
- Must wear mask if not sitting in your car
- Listen in the parking lot on your radio at 100.7 FM

Public Worship Continuing Weekly

Sundays at 9 am & 10:45 am

**JOIN US FOR
WORSHIP**

Reservations open Mondays weekly:

www.bit.ly/RSVPSOTP

Contact: Michelle Rankin michelle@sotpmail.com

Sunday services also continue to stream live on-line at www.sotp.org and on our Facebook page at 9 am & 10:45 am

Please note: **Sunday, October 25th 10:45 am service** is Confirmation and will be in person for Confirmands & their families only.

Please join us at 9am or online.

FRIENDS BIBLE STUDY



Are you looking for additional ways to participate in devotions or study God's word? Friends Bible Study is a wonderful way to assist you in that journey.

Friends Bible Study consists of a group of women who gather together weekly to discuss passages from the Bible. We have members of Shepherd of the Prairie and women who attend other local churches in our group. Newcomers are always a

welcome addition.

We are now studying the second half of the book of Genesis (chapters 25-50) and use Dr. Warren Wiersbe's Be Authentic series as a guide. Join us and learn more about Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob and Joseph. An upcoming chapter is "Enter the Hero." The biblical narrative of Joseph became the basis for Handel's oratorio "Joseph" and the rock cantata "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."

Friends Bible Study meets every Monday from 12:30-2:00 (change in time now that the weather is cooler) in the Willow Room at Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church. Masks need to be worn and tables will be arranged to allow for proper social distancing.

Contact: Linda Dungey lindaajsd88@gmail.com

PROPERTY TEAM—CONTRACTOR NEEDED

The Property is looking into upgrading our outside storage. We are looking for a couple of contractors to give us a cost estimate to put in the concrete foundation/floor and to erect the building.

The proposed building will be the size of a two-car garage and will have a 16 foot roll up garage door.

All the building materials will be supplied. We just need a contractor for the work. The proposed building site will be in the back of the church property behind the original building.

If your company can help, please contact the property team.

Contact: Rich Paeth SOTPproperty@gmail.com



GOD'S GLOBAL BARNYARD

The SOTP Mission Team, along with the Children and Family Ministry, is launching God's Global Barnyard, an ELCA sponsored program to provide animals and agricultural items for families and villages around the world. Each week, our BARN will be at the back of the worship area for the children to place their offerings. After we receive enough donations, we will choose what animal or animals we would like to purchase with the money collected. Available for purchase are cows, goats, chicks, pigs, honeybees, and even a whole barnyard of animals. Come join in the fun and provide a family with food and possibly some income.



Contact: Donna Kelly donna@sotpmail.com

NORTHERN IL FOOD BANK

I have been in contact with the Northern Illinois Food Bank and was informed they are still using volunteers, however, it is in a greatly reduced capacity, with no large groups.

Many of us at SOTP also are within the high-risk age for Covid-19.

The Food Bank suggested that Shepherd of the Prairie group wait until Spring, and we can evaluate the situation at that time.



Contact: Sharon Stangle stangle.ds@gmail.com

FALL DRIVE IN MOVIE AT SOTP



BUTTON BRIGADE

The Button Brigade began their ministry within just a few weeks of the beginning of our Covid-19 adventure. We have crocheted, buttoned and delivered over 12,000 extenders to healthcare services all over Northern IL. Basically, we have supplied so many extenders to so many healthcare facilities, we have pretty much worked ourselves out of a job! So, with that said, the Button Brigade has begun to wind down their ministry. The final deliveries were made the third week in September and the few we have left have been donated to our local school districts.



Once more, THANK YOU so much supporting this ministry through your prayers and your gifts of buttons and yarn. A very special thank you to those many ladies who help to make those 12,000 extenders. Through this ministry, SOTP has made available a valuable item for many, many healthcare workers to provide some relief while they wear masks as they care for their patients. With each crochet stitch and button sewn, the kingdom of God has been brought to this earth, "as it is in heaven". Thank you to each and every one of you; may God continue to bless you!

Contact: Donna Kelly, donna@sotpmail.com

BLOOD DRIVE

BLOOD DRIVE

*Bus
at SOTP*



8am
to
Noon

Schedule a time at:
www.bit.ly/BldSOTP2020

Contact:
Nancy Ottinger
neotter@aol.com

GRIEF JOURNEY CONTINUES



If you have lost a loved one and would like to be part of a group that can provide support, comfort and ideas for journeying through this season of grief, we here at Shepherd of the Prairie would like to provide that kind of opportunity for you. There are no requirements, or need to commit to a specific length of time to attend, nor that you must attend every session; you don't even need to speak except to introduce yourself and tell us who you have lost. There is no charge for participation in this group.

This group is for all who have lost a loved one whether it is a spouse, parent, sibling, child, grandchild, friend or any other relational loss. We meet in person, socially distanced, every Tuesday evening from 6 to 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

For more information, please contact Donna Kelly at donna@sotpmail.com or 214-676-1788.

Contact: Donna Kelly donna@sotpmail.com

PROPERTY CONCERNS?

If you have any building related issues, problems or needs please contact our team at the e-mail below. Once received one of our team members will address your need and/or contact you.

*Contact: Mark Frendreis & The Property Team
SOTPproperty@gmail.com*



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1..... Dan Crespo, Roger Emery, Viveka Forsythe, Karen Klein, Craig Mudge, Gayle Uhlman
- 2..... Elizabeth Harding, John Throckmorton
- 3..... Caden Mathiesen
- 4..... Olivia Burg, Karen Raistrick, Chris Trodahl
- 5..... Michelle Clifford
- 6..... Jodi Dowell, Peyton Wade
- 7..... Tracy Allison, Lynn Broederdorf, Colton Hess, Logan Nagel, Casey Rhode, Arlene Wille
- 8..... Sandra Richardson, Mike Stenson, Kimberly Stowell, Lisa Wondriska
- 9..... Peggy Lynn Loiselle, Jules Pelka
- 10..... Mark Alpert, Lois Dama, Gerald Ernst
- 11..... Kara Burg
- 12..... Janet Larrison, Bill Nesta, Carol Spiller
- 13..... Gary Bender, Tammy Bitzenhofer, Chris Brolsma, Jeanne Henley, Diana Murphy, Tom Polzin, Kerry Zimmerman
- 14..... Kyle Papka, Ken Raines, Louis Vanaria, Kyle Wolf
- 15..... Dave Dirks, Hannah Mudge
- 16..... Tessa Lehmann, Carolyn Morris, Bonnie Vanaria
- 17..... Ann Lehman
- 18..... Myra Lawrence, Joy Nesta, Nicole Peckels
- 19..... Connor Brolsma, Scott Browne, Greg Carr
- 20..... Mary Conti, Julia Dunfrund, Ginny Manley, Jim McGuine, Dalton Stallbaum
- 21..... Zoe Rosemarie Harvat, Joan Iden, Ray Iden, Andrew Kowalski, Jordan Trevino
- 22..... Judy Blaige, Kate Brolsma, Steve Legel, Mark Mathiesen, Louise Sebastian
- 23..... Melissa Bala
- 24..... Chole Bozza, Ryan Michalak
- 25..... Brian Eric Harvat, Sharon Stangle
- 26..... Samantha Crase, Nancy Stopka, Madison Szekeley, Tyler Szekeley
- 27..... Donna Allen, Carol Minuttillo, Sandra Schuessler, Janet Walker
- 28..... Nicholas Adams, Bob Uhlman
- 29..... Jessica Buesing, Robert Malm, Chuck Zunker
- 30..... Jenni Browne, Gladys Feustel, Henry Martin, Joseph Perrott
- 31..... Lloyd Davis, Kim Domenz, Cliff Dungey, Betty Hansen, Rebecca Wright, Tiffanie Young

STAFF

Pastor Mark Boster

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Emily Schoenberg

Emily@sotpmail.com

DRIVE THROUGH FOOD DRIVE—OCTOBER

**DRIVE THROUGH
FOOD DRIVE
OCTOBER 3
9AM - 1PM**

**Shepherd of the
Prairie
10805 Main St,
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*Collecting non-perishables, cash &
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GRAFTON FOOD PANTRY



GIVING TREE 2020

The plan for “gift cards” only is under way.

The family names from Grafton Food Pantry and Turning Point have been received and envelopes have been made out (one for each member of the family).

The envelopes will be displayed starting **Saturday, October 31st and Sunday, November 1st** on the table outside the church offices.

Please note there is “NO” licking the envelopes closed as they all have a tab to pull and then press the flap to seal.

Envelopes must be returned by **Sunday, December 6th** as **distribution begins on Monday, December 7th..**

The drop off box is also on the table for you to deposit your envelopes.

Both agencies need help for the holidays whether it be for food or shelter. If you have any questions, please contact Barb Hoppensteadt. Thank you all!



VOLUNTEERS

Thank you for Serving This Month

OCTOBER GREETERS

	OCT 4	OCT 11	OCT 18	OCT 25
Sunday 9am	Elaine Gillam Cheryl Adams	Sue Wehnes Carol Engstrom	Cheryl Adams Elaine Gillam	Carol Engstrom Eileen Gerald
Sunday 1045 am	Jim & Marlene Hunt	Chuck & Sandy Petersen	Elaine Gillam	Jim & Marlene Hunt

OCTOBER USHERS

ADDITIONAL USHER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you are able to help usher, we would appreciate the help.

Contact Andrew Szekely at aszekely01@outlook.com

	OCT 4	OCT 11	OCT 18	OCT 25
Saturday 5pm [Parking Lot Service Only]		BARB HOPPENSTEADT Karen Eckert Greeter Sub #2		Steve Murphy Carol Hartman Sue Mattiucci
Sunday 9am	WALTER LEMKE Warren Brody <i>Carol Engstrom</i>	JACK CONTI Pete Thompson Harriet Thompson	VIK BEKERIS Pete Thompson Harriet Thompson Dave Stangle Sharon Stangle Carol Engstrom Sandy Seibel	ED CUTTLE Carolyn Cuttle Jerry Darow Pat Darow Ralph Wehnes Sue Wehnes Dennis Houghton
Sunday 1045 am	BOB MCDUFFEE Vik Bekeris Chuck Peterson <i>Jacob Fiandalo</i>	MARK FRENDREIS Vik Bekeris	VIK BEKERIS Don Koerner Ron Mudge Jeff Ottens Judy Petropulos	ANDREW SZEKELY Bob Mollis Vik Bekeris

FINANCIAL NEWS

TREASURER'S REPORT AS OF AUGUST 31, 2020

Assets include \$95,000 from the SBA Paycheck Protection Program received on April 24, 2020. These funds are expected to be forgiven at the end of the program. This does not affect the year to date Operating Fund.

General Fund Report The General Fund Balance is \$236,533. Income for the month was \$49,030 and Expenses for the month were \$52,634.

Mortgage Service Fund Report The Mortgage Service Fund Balance is \$124,445. Income for the month was \$25,108. The monthly mortgage payment is \$19,536.

This Month

General Fund	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income:	\$ 49,030	\$ 63,141	\$ (14,110)
Expenses:	\$ 52,634	\$ 63,084	\$ 10,449

Year-to-Date

General Fund	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Difference
Income:	\$ 514,789	\$ 505,128	\$ 9,661
Expenses:	\$ 464,365	\$ 503,160	\$ 38,794

Mortgage Service Fund

Income for month:

\$ 25,108

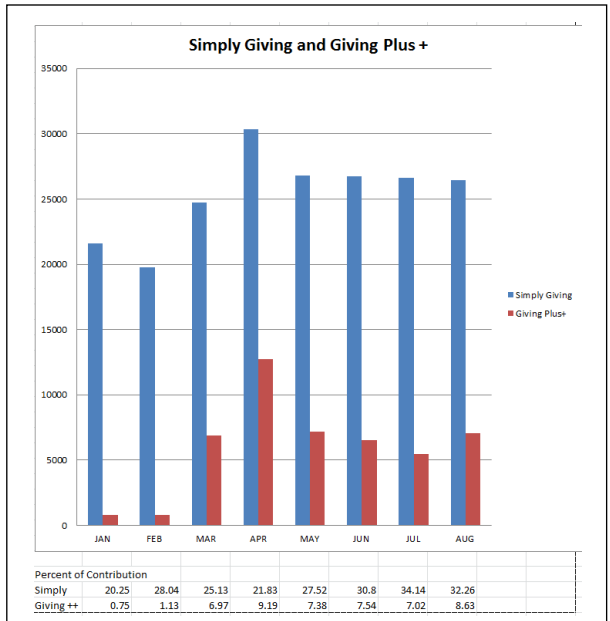
Fund Balance:

\$ 124,445

Respectfully Submitted,

Cliff Dungey

Congregation Treasurer



CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Bud Hansen, President Matt Greene, Vice President

Cliff Dungey, Treasurer Sarah Wolf, Secretary

Marlene Bohler, Carla Elam, Mike Luecht,

Ellen Nissen, Christa Serpe

LET THERE BE FLOWERS



With live streaming the worship services at SOTP, your Worship Committee would like to brighten up the sanctuary with flowers for the sanctuary. We would place the bouquet on the pedestal behind the Pastor. As normal each arrangement is \$50.

We would pick up the bouquet from the florist for the Sunday worship services and then we would deliver the flowers to your home on Sunday or Monday after the service (practicing social distancing of course).

If you are interested in donating flowers, please contact Diane Mollis at dem910@outlook.com. Provide your name, address, phone number, for whom the flowers are dedicated to or in memory of, and which Sunday you are interested in displaying the bouquet. We would only need one bouquet per week. If you have any questions, who may call Diane at 224-654-6677.

Thank you for saying yes to flowers for the sanctuary!

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO DONATED FLOWERS IN SEPTEMBER

September 5/6 – Barb Hoppensteadt in memory of her grandson, Alex, and the third anniversary of his death

September 12/13 – Mel & Lois Long in celebration of their 70th wedding anniversary

September 12/13 – Rick & Kathy Miller in celebration of their 51st wedding anniversary

September 19/20 – Dona Flodin in memory of her son, Eric's, birthday

September 26/27 – Guy & Elaine Neukirch in celebration of their 68th wedding anniversary

Contact: Dianne Mollis dem910@outlook.com

EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS



Do You Receive All Our email communications?

- ⇒ Daily Devotionals (Food for the soul)
- ⇒ Weekly Friday Flourish (Church info)
- ⇒ Monthly Newsletter (More detailed information)

To start receiving any of the above, please e-mail your request to: **Admin@SOTPmail.com**

If you aren't receiving other e-mail blasts from us, please reach out to Michelle Rankin at Michelle@sotpmail.com to be added.