



# Epworth United Methodist Church

*...to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!!*

## CONNECTIONS

May 2016

Greetings!

There is a fun youth group activity to play. It's called All Parts of One Body and the point of the activity is for the "body" to work together to accomplish a task, such as walk across the room to drink a cup of water or walk to a Bible, pick it up, and read a verse out loud. I always modify the game rules so that each person has the freedom to choose which part of the body he or she wants to be. But I do insist that each youth can only perform the function of their body part they have chosen. This activity is based on First Corinthians 12:12-31:

Christ is just like the human body – a body is a unit and has many parts; and all the parts of the body are one body, even though there are many...If the ear says, 'I'm not part of the body because I'm not an eye,' does that mean it's not part of the body? If the whole body were an eye, what would happen to the hearing?...But as it is, God has placed each one of the parts in the body just like he wanted...God has put the body together,...so that there won't be division in the body and so the parts might have mutual concern for each other.

At first, the youth are excited and they each quickly identify which part of the body she or he wants to be. They talk amongst themselves to figure out how, together, they are going to get the drink of water on the other side of the room. They think it is an easy exercise – all they have to do is pile on top of the feet or legs and be carried across the room – until the feet or legs collapse under the weight of several kids piled on top even before one step is taken. They quickly understand how they need all of the different body parts to accomplish the task. They quickly understand that their work is much more difficult, if not impossible, if they are missing a body part or have too many of the same body parts.

Now, really, there is no right or wrong way to do this activity. The point is that God has given each of us gifts (Stephen Ministry has identified 20 Biblical gifts: Proclamation, Servanthood, Teaching the Faith, Encouragement, Generosity, Nurturing Leadership, Mercy, Wisdom, Knowing, Faith, Healings, Miracles, Discernment, Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues, Apostleship, Helping, Visionary and Managing Leadership, Evangelism, Shepherding) to use to make up the *whole* body of Christ. Paul's point in First Corinthians is that it takes all of us together using the gifts God has given to each of us to be a church community working together to accomplish the task of spreading the good news of Jesus Christ to the world. What are your gifts for ministry? If you need help discerning your gifts, let me know and I will be happy to help you. Are you using your gifts to spread the good news of Jesus Christ?

I take this one step further and believe that as a congregation, God has given Epworth gifts for ministry – for accomplishing the task of spreading the good news of Jesus Christ to the world. In this larger picture, we use these gifts along with other congregations' gifts to make up the *whole* body of Christ. What do you think Epworth's gifts are for spreading the good news of Jesus Christ? Are we using our gifts to spreading the good news of Jesus Christ?

### **May Sermon Series: Good News Spreads**

Bible Verse: Acts 2:47 – They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone

Anchor Point: I can help spread the good news.

May 1 - Choosing the Seven (Acts 6:1-7)

May 8 - Philip and the Ethiopian (Acts 8:26-40)

May 15 - Pentecost (Acts 2:1-41)

May 22 - First Called Christians (Acts 11:19-30)

May 29 - We Are One Body (1 Corinthians 12:12-31)

Blessings,  
Deb

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**Finance Update**

Although we are still running at a deficit, we are on track to financial stability with our reduced planned expenses. Now that we are nearly caught up with our extraordinary expenses

of repairing the roof, basement and kitchen more gifts will be used to fund missions and ministries at Epworth.

**Giving and Expenses – 1st Quarter 2016**

<b>Income</b>	2016	2015
*General Giving	\$ 56,031.00	\$ 63,423.00
*Other Income	\$ 11,838.00	\$ 9,165.00
Missional Gifts	\$ 1,396.00	\$ 2,631.00
Capital Campaign	\$ 9,888.00	\$ 7,919.00
Memorials	\$ 280.00	\$ -
<b>*Total Available Income</b>	<b>\$ 67,869.00</b>	<b>\$ 72,588.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Education	\$ 951.00	\$ 527.00
Office Expenses	\$ 2,502.00	\$ 2,802.00
Apportionment	\$ 6,603.00	\$ 3,400.00
Building Interest	\$ 6,517.00	\$ 7,097.00
Staff	\$ 34,368.00	\$ 48,316.00
Utilities / Maint	\$ 16,564.00	\$ 13,108.00
Parsonage	\$ 2,267.00	\$ 1,658.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 70,921.00</b>	<b>\$ 78,005.00</b>
<b>Shortfall</b>	<b>\$ (3,052.00)</b>	<b>\$ (5,417.00)</b>

**Joash Update (as of 4-16-2016)**

<b>Income</b>	
Insurance Claim	\$ 7,691.00
Transfer from designated accounts	
Kitchen Remodel / Appliances	\$ 10,875.00
Memorials	\$ 11,828.00
Sale of Grace Parsonage	\$ 82,771.00
Endowment Loan	\$ 25,000.00
Joash Gifts	\$ 52,037.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 190,202.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Lower Level Water Damage Repair	\$ 50,238.00
Roofs	\$ 35,540.00
Conference Room	\$ 840.00
Kitchen Remodel	\$ 106,145.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 192,763.00</b>
<b>Shortfall</b>	<b>\$ (2,561.00)</b>

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

- Dave Kellenberger, Treasurer



## Current & Upcoming Events

- ✓ **2016 Spirit Lake Mission Fundraisers:** The Mission Team is holding two fundraisers to help raise funds for this year's Spirit Lake Mission Trip – a Mother's Day Pie sale and a Father's Day Hero sandwich sale. An order form is included in this newsletter and can be turned in to Andy Lindstrom or Janina Hoffman or place them in the offering basket. Please contact Andy Lindstrom if you have any questions at [andrewlindstrom@yahoo.com](mailto:andrewlindstrom@yahoo.com).
- ✓ **Food Pantry Sunday** is next Sunday, May 1st. Please bring in your donations rice, boxed potatoes, sides and pastas or bring your own non-perishable food items of your choice! Donations can be placed in the Food Pantry basket outside the sanctuary.
- ✓ **Christmas Shoe Boxes for Spirit Lake** - In order to help send enough boxes to Spirit Lake in October, we are collecting items throughout the year. **In May we will be collecting puzzles, games and baseballs.** Donations can be placed on the collection shelves in the Community Room. Don't want to shop? Purchase a gift card and let us do the shopping for you! And if you purchase the gift cards through MANNA, Epworth will get a little something, too!
- ✓ **Men's Friday Breakfast** - Come and enjoy a delicious breakfast, fellowship and discussion on topics of the day. We meet in M5 every Friday @ 7:00am. All are welcome to attend; this is a casual group and regular attendance is not required.
- ✓ **Sprouts** – Parents and caregivers are welcome to join us for this wonderful program designed especially for children 0-36 months old praise God in a very baby way. We spend 15 minutes of structured praise followed by 15-30 minutes of play time. We meet on Thursdays at 11:00am in room L8; our last class will be on May 19<sup>th</sup>. For more information please contact Penny Ball at 847.931.5400 or [office@eumcelgin.org](mailto:office@eumcelgin.org).
- ✓ **Friendship Luncheon** - Over 55? Join us for our next Friendship Club Luncheon at 12:30pm on Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> @ Randall Pancake House on Randall Road in S. Elgin. A sign-up sheet is on the Epworth bulletin board in the Community Room. You don't have to be a member of the church to come. Questions, call the Church Office at 847-931-5400.
- ✓ **Epworth's UMW Annual Spring Salad Luncheon** - Everyone in our community is invited to this fundraising and fellowship event. Our luncheon features a delicious array of salads, pastas, fruits, vegetables, breads and desserts. Tickets: \$8.00 for adults; \$5.00 for children 12 and under. Limited time of your lunch hour? Call the Church Office at 847-931-5400 and we'll gladly reserve a table for you or your group or take your food to go. All proceeds will benefit United Methodist Women mission projects.  
Servants are needed to help make our Spring Salad Luncheon a huge success:
  - Donate a Salad/Dessert.
  - Help Set-Up on Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm.
  - Help on the day of the event: 10:00am-12:30pm or 12:15pm-2pm.Please contact Beth Rohde at 847-741-9530 to offer food donations. To offer your service, please sign up on the Service Table opposite the Sanctuary.
- ✓ **Flag Retirement Ceremony** - On Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, Boy Scout Troop 128 will conduct a Flag Retirement Ceremony at 10:00am here at Epworth. If you have a flag that is no longer serviceable, please place them in the boxes by the SonRise Room entrance. Questions? Contact Keith Paskiewicz @ 331.222.2039.

### New Creations Preschool is now enrolling for the 2016-17 School Year!

New Creations Preschool nurtures children's potential in a caring, Christian environment while preparing them for success in Kindergarten and beyond! Classes are offered either 2 day (T, Th), 3 day (M, W, F) or 5 day (M-F) from 9am - 12pm for children 3-5 years of age. Low teacher to student ratios mean your child(ren) will receive plenty of individualized attention from their wonderful teachers. Visit their website at [www.newcreationspreschool.org](http://www.newcreationspreschool.org) or contact Tiffany Shooll @ 847-931-5088 for more information.



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Please contact the church office for the prayer list and a  
complete list of May birthdays and anniversaries

## MAY CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
-MANNA Orders Taken Today! -Worship w/ Holy Communion @ 9:00-10:00am -Sunday Morning CONNECT Groups @ 10:15am -La Luz Worship & Bible Classes @ 1:00-3:00pm -PADS @ 6:30-9:00pm	-Walking Bible Study, Parsonage @ 6:30am -Boy Scout Troop #128, CR & M5 @ 7:00pm -Bible Study, U5 @ 7:00pm	-Morning Prayer Time, S @ 6:30-8:00am -Trustee Meeting, U1 @ 7pm	-Bible Study, Panera Bread in S. Elgin @ 6:00am -Wood Carving Group, CR @ 1:30-3:30pm -Choir Practice @ 7:00pm	-Sprouts, L8 @ 11:00am-12:00pm -La Luz Band Rehearsal, S @ 6:30-8:30pm	-Men's Breakfast, M5 @ 7:00am -Tiling, CR -La Luz Bible Study, S @ 6:30-9:00pm	-La Luz Prayer Group, S @ 6:00-7:00am -Tiling, CR -La Luz Dance Rehearsal, S @ 1:00-3:00pm
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY</b> -Worship @ 9:00-10:00am -Sunday Morning CONNECT Groups @ 10:15am -La Luz Worship & Bible Classes @ 1:00-3:00pm	-Walking Bible Study, Parsonage @ 6:30am -New Creations Board Mtg, U6 @ 7pm -Boy Scout Troop #128, CR & M5 @ 7:00pm -Bible Study, U1 @ 7:00pm	-Morning Prayer Time, S @ 6:30-8:00am	-Bible Study, Panera Bread in S. Elgin @ 6:00am -Friendship Club Luncheon, Randall Pancake House @ 12:30pm -PADS @ 6:30-9:00pm -Choir Practice @ 7:00pm	-Sprouts, L8 @ 11:00am-12:00pm -La Luz Band Rehearsal, S @ 6:30-8:30pm	-Men's Breakfast, M5 @ 7:00am -La Luz Bible Study, S @ 6:30-9:00pm	-La Luz Prayer Group, S @ 6:00-7:00am -La Luz Dance Rehearsal, S @ 1:00-3:00pm -La Luz Baby Shower, CR @ 5:00-10:00pm
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
-MANNA Orders Taken Today! -Mission Team Mtg, U1 @ 8:00am -Worship @ 9:00-10:00am -Blood Pressure Checks -Sunday Morning CONNECT Groups @ 10:15am -La Luz Worship & Bible Classes @ 1:00-3:00pm	-Walking Bible Study, Parsonage @ 6:30am -Food for Greater Elgin @ 5:30-8:00pm -Bible Study, U5 @ 7:00pm	-Morning Prayer Time, S @ 6:30-8:00am -Soup Kettle (Zion Lutheran Church, 330 Griswold) @ 4:30-6:45pm	-Bible Study, Panera Bread in S. Elgin @ 6:00am -UMW Salad Luncheon Set-Up, CR @ 9am-2pm -Wood Carver's Group, M5 @ 1:30-3:30pm -Choir Practice @ 7:00pm	-UMW Salad Luncheon, CR @ 11:00am - 2:00pm -Sprouts, L8 @ 11:00am-12:00pm -Heartsaver CPR/AED, L2 @ 5:30-9:30pm -La Luz Band Rehearsal, S @ 6:30-8:30pm	-Men's Breakfast, M5 @ 7:00am -La Luz Bible Study, S @ 6:30-9:00pm	-La Luz Prayer Group, S @ 6:00-7:00am -Food for Greater Elgin @ 8:30-11:30am -Private Party, CR @ 1:00-10:00pm -La Luz Dance Rehearsal, S @ 1:00-3:00pm
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
-Worship @ 9:00-10:00am -Sunday Morning CONNECT Groups @ 10:15am -La Luz Worship & Bible Classes @ 1:00-3:00pm -Monthly Meal for Crisis Center @ 5:00pm	-Walking Bible Study, Parsonage @ 6:30am -Boy Scout Troop #128, CR & M5 @ 7:00pm -Bible Study, U5 @ 7:00pm	-Morning Prayer Time, S @ 6:30-8:00am -Care Team Meeting, U1 @ 1:00pm -Church Council Meeting, U1 @ 7:00pm	-Bible Study, Panera Bread in S. Elgin @ 6:00am -Choir Practice @ 7:00pm	-New Creations Preschool Last Day Celebration, CR @ 9:00am-12:00pm -La Luz Band Rehearsal, S @ 6:30-8:30pm	-Men's Breakfast, M5 @ 7:00am -La Luz Bible Study, S @ 6:30-9:00pm	-La Luz Prayer Group, S @ 6:00-7:00am -La Luz Dance Rehearsal, S @ 1:00-3:00pm
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				
<b>UNITED VOICES FOR CHILDREN SPECIAL OFFERING</b> -Worship @ 9:00-10:00am -Boy Scout Troop 128 Flag Retirement Ceremony @ 10:00am -Sunday Morning CONNECT Groups @ 10:15am -La Luz Worship & Bible Classes @ 1:00-3:00pm	<b>MEMORIAL DAY</b> OFFICE CLOSED	-Morning Prayer Time, S @ 6:30-8:00am				



## MAY GIVING / SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

**PADS** - Servants are needed to cook meals at home to be taken to PADS for about 30 people. Volunteers can also come to PADS to check in guests, serve food or sit down and provide companionship to PADs guests.

**When: Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup> & Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> 6:30-9:00pm.**

Contact J Fazel at 847-888-0270 to serve.

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**SOUP KETTLE** - Provides hot meals and warm smiles to 60-100 people in need every day. Epworth Church staffs the Soup Kettle at Zion Lutheran Church the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month.

**When: May 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 - 6:45pm.** Those wishing to serve, please contact Mary Rees Freeman at mrf647@hotmail.com.

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**FOOD FOR GREATER ELGIN** - Provides food assistance to 1200 low income families (approx. 5500 individuals, 1/2 of which are children) in the Elgin and South Elgin areas each month. The following times are available to serve at Food for Greater Elgin:

**When: Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30-8:00pm and Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> @ 8:30-11:30am.**

Please click on "Food for Greater Elgin" under the "Serve" tab on our website for more information on how to serve.

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**CRISIS CENTER MEALS** - Epworth Mission Team provides meals for the Crisis Center on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month. We are in need of volunteers to make a main dish to pass, a vegetable or dessert.

**When: Sunday, May 22nd @ 5:00pm.**

Please contact Mary Rees Freeman at mrf647@hotmail.com.



### Bible Study

Bible Studies provide an excellent opportunity to continue to learn more about His Word throughout the week and are available to everyone!

#### MONDAYS -

**Walk the Talk Bible Study** - Join us at 6:30am as we hit the walking trail beginning at the parsonage. Continue your day & week connecting and growing through scriptures, empowering you to share God's love and Word & we learn about being Christ's hands & feet. We will walk for about an hour.

**Monday Night Bible Study** - Looking for an opportunity to learn and grow in your faith? Join us Monday evenings at 7pm in U1. This will be an ongoing class and all are welcome to join us anytime! We are currently studying "Invitation to Psalms" - a short-term Disciple Bible Study.

#### WEDNESDAYS -

At Panera Bread in South Elgin at 6am. Share in the word, break bread, sip a beverage as we connect over the scriptures, grow in our understanding and prepare ourselves and others to go out and serve.

### MAY MISSION OF THE MONTH - Midwest Missions Distribution Center (MMDC)

MMDC helps provide disaster relief kits and resources as well as educational and medical supplies to those in need both locally and internationally to everyone, regardless of age, race, and religious denomination. MMDC provides that "hands on" mission experience. When volunteers come, there are a number of projects that they may be involved in. Volunteers pack kits, sort items, sew school bags, hospitals gowns, and quilts. Volunteers box goods, help with mailings, build crates and desks, repair bicycles and sewing machines, help unload items, fill shipping containers, organize materials, and whatever the needs are at any given time. There are opportunities for those with special skills, trades, and those at peak abilities, as well as opportunities for individuals who may be more limited. No matter what your abilities, there is an important job that needs you!

#### MANNA ORDERS!

Manna orders will be taken on May 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>. Order forms can be found in the attendance folder as well as on the west wall in the Community Room. Look over the list to see if there are some cards you can buy today and help your church at the same time. Epworth receives 2-20% of the price you pay. Give it a try!

For questions, see Carole Burris or contact the Church Office @ 847-931-5400.