Let’s Give Thanks

We have so much to be thankful for as a community of faith at SOTL. This summer we’re going to focus on thankfulness during our Sunday worship services. As an added bonus, we’ll do so in one worship service at 9:30am. As we do, look around and give thanks that God has given us a church marked by unity, with both young and old members, long-time Christians and new believers, and a multitude of gifts and talents.

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Tips for a Spiritually Healthy Summer

May God bless you with rest and recreation this summer! As He does, here are a few tips to help you experience a spiritually healthy summer.

If you’re away on the weekend, check out a church in the area you’re visiting. Go to www.lcms.org and click on ‘locate a church’ to find a sister church of SOTL in your area. If there is nothing nearby, you can always stream the service at SOTL live via the church website.

Utilize the Wednesday evening service at SOTL each week at 6:30pm (excluding July 4). Services are abbreviated and Holy Communion is celebrated every week.

Practice the spiritual discipline of regular generous giving. Consider using the EFT method of giving if you’ll be away on a number of Sundays. Go to www.sotlchurch.com/eft.

Use some of the extra time in your schedule to hold family devotions and study a book of the Bible. For nearly 20,000 free resources, use our service at Right Now Media. Don’t have an account? Go to www.sotlchurch.com/rightnowmedia and follow the simple steps.
SOTL Updates

Building Dedication

Join us for one of the most significant events in recent memory at Shepherd of the Lakes. On Sunday, August 19 we will dedicate our amazing new building addition. We’ll kick things off with a special service of celebration at 9:30am. Immediately following the service will be a program and luncheon (free-will offering). You won’t want to miss it!

At the building dedication, we are inviting you to give thanks in a special way. Here are three options for those who are willing and able:

1. Provide a gift card to Dick’s Sporting Goods so that we can have resources for those “extras” and supplies that will pop up now that we have this exciting new space
2. If you haven’t previously pledged to our Drop the Nets campaign, share a one-time gift of thanksgiving over and above your regular Sunday offering to be applied to the building project
3. If you have pledged to Drop the Nets, consider a donation towards one of the items on our “Wish List” below (list may be updated by August 19 and will be available on the day of the dedication).

A special gift box will be present at the building dedication. Please do not place the suggested gifts above in the offering plate at the Sunday morning service with your regular gift.

New Water Supply

By the time this edition of the News and Notes comes out, we should be able to once again use the water in our building after a period of having to utilize water jugs that we needed to purchase. After a long drawn out process, we have finally been able to hook-up to a municipal water source and will no longer necessitate use of our well, which had a multitude of issues over the last few years. This was not an easy process, but one that we are thankful has been completed. A special thanks must be given to Bob Green, chairman of the Board of Directors, for his diligent work with local officials in spite of many obstacles. Thank you also to building project manager, Chad Thelen, and all participants on the building committee that added this effort to their already large task of expanding the building.

Right Now Media

Join the hundreds of SOTL families who are using RightNow Media, a streaming service we have subscribed to (think Netflix for Christian resources). This service is available for FREE to all SOTL members and attendees. You can have immediate access to nearly 20,000 online materials, including small group Bible studies, personal devotions, training sessions, children’s videos, and more.

Set up your FREE account at www.sotlchurch.com/rightnowmedia

This is an amazing gift and resource. Please take a moment to set up your account. Have questions or need help? Contact Janna at jyeakey@sotlchurch.com,
Get Connected

Small Groups

Summer means doing small group a different way at times. It’s also a great time to introduce new people to your group. Make summer a fun time and your group will make plenty of memories! Here are some examples to mix things up a bit:

1. Get outdoors and meet at the beach, a lake, or a park a couple times this summer on your normal meeting day and invite friends to join you and check out the group.
2. Schedule some BBQs during the summer.
3. Ladies in the group, have a “girls night out” for dinner, coffee, a movie, kayaking or whatever the girls like to do.
4. Guys, do the same with a “guys night out” for golfing, bowling, a movie, paintball, fishing or whatever the guys like to do.

“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” Hebrews 10:25

So, keep going and have fun this summer. Together. Janna Yeakey, our Director of Discipleship and Small Groups, is available to help you with ideas or if you would like to join a small group. Be in touch with her at jyeakey@sotlchurch.com or visit www.sotlchurch.com/groups for more info.

Serve

We were made to serve. We cannot thrive in our faith or church if we are not connected to ways to serve God or others. If you’re unsure of where you fit or how to take the next steps, we’d love to meet briefly with you and help you get connected. Email Janna at jyeakey@sotlchurch.com and she will help you assess your gifts and interests and the opportunities that exist to use them to be a blessing. You can also learn more at www.sotlchurch.com/serve.
Get Connected

2018 Lutheran Adult Gathering

October 12-14, 2018
Mackinac Island - Grand Hotel
For information and online registration, visit www.michigandistrict.org

Men’s Ministry

Band of Brothers

There are two different meeting times for the Band of Brothers. One group meets on Saturdays at 7am, and another on Mondays at 7pm. Both groups meet at the church. All men are welcome to join and grow as leaders in their home, community, and workplace. No sign-up necessary.

Roustabouts

A group of guys meet at the church every Thursday at 9am for some coffee and conversation before helping with some fix-it projects around the church. Join any time simply by showing up.

Women’s Ministry

Woman to Woman

Resumes in September. Woman-to-Woman is a gathering of women of all ages and stages of life who come together to study God’s Word, pray together and encourage one another. We meet on Tuesdays from 1-2:30 pm in Room 200.

Fall Women’s Retreats at Camp Arcadia

2 weekends to choose from: Sept. 14-16 - Speaker: Connie Denniger, or Sept. 21-23 - Speaker: Heidi Goehmann. For more information on speakers as well as registration forms, fees, accommodations, and facilities, see the bulletin board outside Room 200. Register online at camp-arcadia.com and send your $75 deposit directly to the camp. If you have never been and have questions or need roommate ideas before you decide, please contact Chris Chauvin 810-516-1510.

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)

MOPS stands for Mothers of Preschoolers, and by “preschoolers” we mean kids from pregnancy through kindergarten. During our summer break, you can stay connected with us on Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/SOTLMOPS MOPS resumes Friday, September 14th with our new theme, “Find Your Fire.”

Moms Bible Study - Christ in the Chaos

Attention Moms: It is easy to feel overwhelmed in this fast-paced and success-driven society, not to mention guilty. We’ll help direct one another to “Christ in the Chaos.” This study led by Director of Discipleship and Small Groups, Janna Yeakey. We meet on Thursday mornings at 9am in room 200 and in the evening at 7pm in the conference room. No registration necessary. Contact Janna at jyeakey@sotlchurch.com with questions. Join us when we resume in September!

Quilting Group

Join us after our break in July & August. We meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month (September-June) 9am-11am in Room 200.

Knitting Group

Meets the 2nd/4th Monday of every month 9am-10:30am in Room 200.
Children & Family Ministries

Vacation Bible School


VBS really is the BEST WEEK OF THE SUMMER! The deadline for registering is July 9, so get those friends invited and online registrations done! Volunteers are always welcome too... one day, five days, or anywhere in between!

No kids to bring but you just want to see what the excitement is all about? Come to the sanctuary any day Monday through Thursday from 11:30-12 and experience the excitement of “Sail Away Send Off!” You won’t be disappointed!

- Sunday July 15 kickoff - for families and kids from 11am-12pm (hot dog lunch provided)
- Monday July 16 through Thursday July 19 from 9am-12pm for kids and volunteers

Email acolley@sotlchurch.com or call 810-227-5099 if you have any questions.

56 Degrees (5th & 6th grade)

Calling all future 5th and 6th graders! Did you know that we have a special group at SOTL just for you! It’s called “56 degrees,” and it’s a blast! Our next event “just for us” is in August (join all the children and youth hanging out at VBS in July). Here are the details:

Who: all 5th and 6th graders and their friends
What: GO BANANAS EVENT!
Where: SOTL
When: Friday Aug 24, 6:30-8 pm
What else: Come ready to celebrate the yellow fruit! The night will include banana games, banana songs, banana activities AND banana splits!
Youth Ministries

National Youth Gathering (7th-11th grade)

The National Youth Gathering is a pinnacle event held every three years. It will be held on July 11-15, 2019 in Minneapolis. Save the date! Though that seems far away, the time to start planning is now. Students currently in grades 7-11 will be eligible to attend. The out of pocket cost for each student will be $500. Because this is a significant expense, families are invited to start contributing smaller amounts now to help spread out the burden (money can be returned if students withdraw before the registration deadline next year). Checks may be made out to SOTL with NYG in the memo line. Do not place in the offering plate, but give directly to Julie Alie or the church office. Info meetings for NYG are July 23 and August 6th at 6pm (both meetings contain the same information; you only need to attend one).

Junior High Students (7th-8th grade)

All 7th and 8th grade youth are invited to attend our fellowship events once a month and retreats (2-3x per year). ONE meets once a month for a fellowship event including games, food, outdoor fun, etc. Events occur from 6:30-8pm unless otherwise noted; see our full schedule at www.sotlchurch.com/middleschool

- July 20th: Scavenger Hunt in downtown Brighton (Students meet outside of Genesis Hall at 6:30pm)
- August 24th: Parent Orientation and Student Open Gym at SOTL (6:30-10pm)

Senior High Students (9th-12th grade)

Wednesdays from 6:33pm-8pm. This event, commonly referred to as 6:33, is the chance for students to develop deeper relationships with Christ and Christian friends. We worship together, talk, ask tough questions, play games, and seek to grow in our faith. (During the summer we often meet outside or offsite. To be added to the email and text update list: jalie@sotlchurch.com).
2018 Golf Outing
Thank you to all of the sponsors, volunteers, and participants in our Annual Golf Outing. We raised $25,000 for tuition assistance, a klin for our new art room, and other odds and ends for the new addition. We want to offer a huge “thank you” to Brian Clement and his amazing Golf Outing Committee for their dedication to our school and a Christ-centered education.

Part-Time Teacher Aide: Kindergarten
Assist head teacher in the classroom through classroom management strategies, assisting individuals or groups, etc. Complete supportive work, such as organizing paperwork, photocopying, and preparing and producing materials used in instruction. Duties such as record-keeping, materials inventory, and technical support for classroom computers, tablets, and projectors. Up to 30 hrs/wk.

Part-Time Teacher Aide: Preschool
Assist head teacher in the classroom through classroom management strategies, assisting individuals or groups, etc. Complete supportive work, such as organizing paperwork, photocopying, and preparing and producing materials used in instruction. Up to 20 hrs/wk.

Part-Time Extended Care Aide
Supervise school children from preschool though 8th grade before and/or after school. Up to 20 hrs/wk.

8th Grade Trip
The 8th graders had an amazing trip to Washington, D.C. They walked 23 miles in 3 days and saw museums, monuments and more! One of the highlights of the trip was the Museum of the Bible. Next year’s group is already busy planning their trip!

4th of July Parade
We are proud to represent SOTL in the 4th of July parade for the last 7 years, and we will do so again this year. We have been blessed to kick-off the parade with our SOTL band performing The National Anthem.

End of School Year
Friday, June 8th marked the end of our 2017-18 school year at SOTL. We closed with a special Chapel service and award ceremony. The 8th graders even did a small “prank” on Mrs. VanDeven with the help of their teachers and decorated her car with sticky notes! As we look forward to the exciting year ahead, we give thanks to God for the abundant blessings He has given at SOTL.
If you are interested in hearing more about our school, contact Becca Halliburton, Recruitment Coordinator at bhalliburton@sotlschool.com or visit us at www.sotlschool.com

2018 Golf Outing
Thank you to all of the sponsors, volunteers, and participants in our Annual Golf Outing. We raised $25,000 for tuition assistance, a klin for our new art room, and other odds and ends for the new addition. We want to offer a huge “thank you” to Brian Clement and his amazing Golf Outing Committee for their dedication to our school and a Christ-centered education.

Come work with our awesome team! Please turn in resume and cover letter to Mrs. Juli VanDeven, Principal, at jvandeven@sotlschool.com.

Part-Time Teacher Aide: Kindergarten
Assist head teacher in the classroom through classroom management strategies, assisting individuals or groups, etc. Complete supportive work, such as organizing paperwork, photocopying, and preparing and producing materials used in instruction. Duties such as record-keeping, materials inventory, and technical support for classroom computers, tablets, and projectors. Up to 30 hrs/wk.

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Part-Time Extended Care Aide
Supervise school children from preschool though 8th grade before and/or after school. Up to 20 hrs/wk.
Stephen Ministry

Receive care- When you need care, you can count on a Stephen Minister. They are equipped to confidentially provide the comfort and care that God wants you to have. Find out more at the Compassionate Care booth or www.sotlchurch.com/stephen-ministry

Care Ministries

Genesis Community

The Genesis Community welcomed an average of more than 40 guests each Saturday in June. We thank God for the privilege to share this ministry with people from a variety of backgrounds, but all with the common bond of needing a relationship with Jesus and other believers. Many of them feel more comfortable in the smaller intimate setting that Genesis provides. Genesis consists of a free meal served by SOTL small groups, a time of worship and prayer, and reflection in small groups. We meet Saturday nights from 5-7pm in Genesis Hall. Join us!

Update on Genesis Community Garden

In recent additions of the News and Notes, a vision has been cast for an expanding component of our Genesis Community. We desire to construct a hoop house in which we can grow produce. The hoop house would be staffed by approved low-risk individuals who have been previously incarcerated and need a hand-up in assimilating into the community.

While this vision remains, we have experienced a set-back that is causing us to pause and evaluate. Hoop houses are generally considered temporary structures requiring only a temporary use permit. This was confirmed before purchase of a hoop house with a special donation given by a strong supporter of the Genesis Community. However, Brighton Township has instead requested that we get architectural drawings, a site plan, and that we assemble the hoop house as a permanent structure. This has caused a delay that will make it impossible to begin Genesis Community Garden this year. We intend to evaluate, pray, crunch numbers, etc, and determine if we can and should move forward with this endeavor in time of the planting season in 2019.
Financial Update

We finished the fiscal year of 2017-2018 with offerings 2% above our budgeted goal. Thank you for your generosity. In addition, we have collected nearly $1,600,000 in actual gifts for Drop the Nets, and nearly $300,000 additional dollars for additional projects outside our general operating budget. Your gifts are making a huge difference in helping SOTL share the love of Christ in our community.

Our budgeted goal for 2018-2019 is $1,400,000, which is $30,000 more than last year’s goal. We can do this with a continued commitment to responding to God’s blessings in our lives. As we think beyond dollars and cents, we realize that every dollar given has an impact on our own faith and the spread of the Gospel to others. We will also continue our Drop the Nets campaign through 2019. We still anticipate more than $700,000 in gifts given to this campaign for the sake of decreasing debt from our new building addition.

Begin thinking now about what’s next when Drop the Nets is completed. How will we work together to further decrease building debt? What new initiatives will we allocate our resources toward? Those discussions will begin soon, and all of us can have an open heart and mind to see how God will use us to ensure that SOTL’s ministry continues to be powerful into the next generation.

Thank you for your generous support!

We have been blessed to add many things to our new building addition that were not part of the original project budget due to special donations from generous and able members. Please consider the following wish list items if you are able to make a gift beyond your regular support of our ministry efforts. You do not need to supply the full amount. If making a gift, be sure to place in a specially marked envelope separate from your regular offering.

- Tablets for preschool and kindergarten — $2,000
- Updated tables/chairs for Kidzone — $2,500
- Tables/chairs for gymnasium — $5,000
- Security cameras for parking lot (we have fully outfitted the interior of the building) — $5,000
- Furniture for new building lobby and conference room — $10,000
- Promethium Display Boards for classrooms and monitors for new building — $68,000
- Sand volleyball court — $10,000
- Updated camera for Worship Center for streaming video purposes — $11,000
- Performance curtain for stage in gymnasium — $18,000
- Sound clouds for new gymnasium (to control noise/echoes) — $20,000

Wish List

Our stuff may be called "treasures", but children are really our most valuable resource. Our investment in them will provide the invaluable return of strong citizens and better communities. Proceeds from online sales will help our students grow spiritually, thrive academically, and mature socially.

Our Resale Store is live for shopping. Shop our sale at www.sotschool.com/sunkentreasure

We welcome everyone to donate items for the sale as well as share the opportunity with others. Our next Drop-Off Day for items will be Saturday, July 21st. Stay tuned for more details. For a complete list of accepted items, visit www.sotschool.com/sunkentreasure
Wednesday Evening Worship

Every Wednesday this summer except for the 4th of July, we’ll have a midweek worship service at 6:30pm. If you’re away on the weekend, consider coming to the Wednesday service to be spiritually fed. The services are abbreviated, have a unique message from Sunday mornings, and Holy Communion is celebrated. This summer’s theme is “The Questions God Asks.” We’re full of questions for God, but throughout the Bible we learn He also asks some important questions of us. Hint: The answer will lead us to Jesus each and every Wednesday service!

Stay Connected
Follow us on Social Media:

Facebook.com/sotlbrighton
Twitter.com/SOTL_Brighton
Instagram.com/sotl_church
Pinterest.com/shepherdofthelakes

Important Dates
July 1-September 2 - Sunday worship service at 9:30am only
July 4-8 - Church office closed
July 15-19 - VBS (register and get more info at www.sotlchurch.com/vbs)
August 19 - Building Dedication and Luncheon following 9:30am service
*The church office will be closed on Fridays this summer through August 10

8th Annual STORM Run
It’s time to start running! Get out those shoes and download a running app to prepare for the 8th Annual Storm Run on Saturday, September 8th. We have a 1 mile fun run, 5K trail run, and 10k trail run! NEW this year we have the addition of a color run for each race! Each year, our school children from kindergarten through 8th grade submit designs for the logo of that year’s STORM Run. We are pleased to announce that Payton VanDeven designed the winning logo for the 2018 STORM Color Run! Register online at www.sotlstormrun.com.