

Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

December, 2017

The Consolation C U R E

"What you are is God's gift to you and what you become is our gift to God"
Hans Urs von Balthasar.

I am a grief survivor - grief that ripped me open by the sudden death of my dad, my role model, in a car crash on the afternoon of my mom's birthday. My cousin and the driver also passed away. The event was not only a source of great loss for me, but it became a source of great strength for my ministry. I am the only one alive to share this story because I was thrown out of the car, out into the air and landed on a highway in the middle of the day. My bones were broken, the femur bone was scattered beyond recognition, and my body was bruised and bathed in blood. This traumatic event opened my heart to experience God's consolation.

It all boiled down to that one moment, the night after the doctors implanted a steel rod into my leg. I remember the moment I woke up as the anesthesia was wearing off, I was tearful. Nurses thought that I was in pain from the injuries sustained from the accident. But, my tears were not from any physical pain. Instead it was from the unspeakable comfort. I felt the presence of the Lord. He was authentically present at the time of my need. My pain was erased by his presence. My tears were the result of that comforting and indwelling presence. I call it the Presence of His Incarnation. I felt comforted, like my soul felt the touch of heaven. The power of God's grace and peace joined together to offer an

unspeakable care. I felt a relief beyond belief in the middle of that night. I do not remember hearing a voice; but I received great solace, strength and support from above. I received perfect emotional strength that I desperately needed at that moment. It was my God, I experienced His presence and I felt His peace.

Therefore I can testify from my story that true consolation comes from God and from His presence alone. Consolation happens when we sense God's unexplainable peace in the midst of dangerous and difficult situations, and when our cognition and emotion are ignited with the unspeakable presence of Almighty God.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God – 2Corinthians 1:3-4.

Paul says that God consoles us in our troubles; therefore, we are encouraged to console one another. Practically speaking, a consolation acronym that I practice in my spiritual care is **CURE**.

C stands for Connect. The very first step is to receive strength from our maker. It is all about connecting to our Creator. Maybe it is simply

(Continued on next page)

CONSOLATION

asking God to help you or being sensitive to God's direction. It is important to make it a practice to communicate directly to God in an intimate way.

U stands for Understand. Once you receive strength from above, then you may offer non-judgmental listening presence to the afflicted by being fully present in their world. My *Incarnational* approach is about seeing with the eyes of the other person, listening with the ears of the other person, feeling with the heart of the other person, and thinking with the mind of the other person. I believe this is the way to console those who are in any affliction. Many times I see tears as one of God's natural gifts to us, to cope through difficult times. This brings a sense of great relief and healing to those difficult times.

R stands for Resources. The third step is to explore available resources. I acknowledge that Jesus is the source of my strength, the Holy Spirit is my comforter, and with this awareness, I explore my available supportive resources, including family support, faith community support, and other friendly supports.

E stands for Empower. The final step is to empower one another with the care you have received. It is possible by extracting scripture into coping strategies. Let me share Paul's strategy to experience and to be with God of peace:

Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon. Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace,

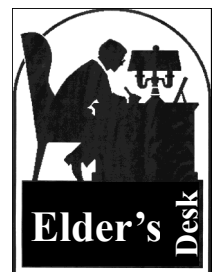
which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you - Philippians 4:4-9.

It is the Christmas season; we are running around to give gifts to others, as well as, having our arms wide open to receive gifts. Remember, we are born as a gift from God to our parents. Today we celebrate Christ, our greatest gift we have ever known and received: the blessed hope of our faith. The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord (Romans 6:23) Are we exchanging the true gift that we have received or treasuring the true gift that we have received? What is your gift to God? I invite you all to reflect upon the true gift and explore your gift at this advent season!

May the consolation of His true gift bring true meaning to your journey.

Merry Christmas

Sam P. Jacob
Pastoral Care Pastor.



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	Senior Pastor: Peter Weber Treasurer: Glenda Kasza Elders: Sam Jacob, President Tim Kasza, Vice President Ted Gehman, Director Nona Koivula, Director



TLC

Together Loving Christ

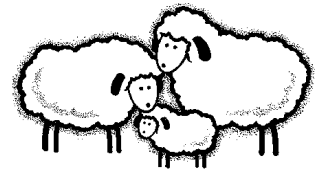
Are you sharing in the exciting and spiritual blessings of studying God's Word and discovering how it applies to your contemporary life?

Join with us in our Adult Study Group at Sunny Place every Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

Grow in the Word!

Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.

Kid's Rock available
for children ages five to nine
Nursery Services Provided



Please join us for
**A Candlelight
Christmas Service**
Friday, December 15th
7:00 p.m.
at Sunny Place Church

Visit us at: www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org



901 E. Oak Street, Addison, IL 60101

Connecting Families With The Love Of Christ

Minutes of the Elder's Meeting November 1st, 2017

Attendees: Attendees; Pastor Pete Weber, Tim Kasza, Glenda Kasza, Ted Gehman, Sam Jacob, Nona Koivula

Devotion and prayer: Hebrews 13: 5-8 "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

Ministry Reports

Treasurer: Budgeted book balance is \$780.65.

Worship: Tyler said he and Sabra will be leaving Sunny Place in May or June next year to return to Oklahoma. He will assist the efforts to find a Worship leader. The team planned a Candlelight Christmas service Friday December 15th. This will be a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus with song and scriptures. The Martins expect the delivery of their daughter around Christmas and the team was ready to help in their absence.

Christian Education: A possible second adult class on Sunday mornings: "Eyewitness" (1, 2, 3 John) Looking for a teacher.

Hospitality & Encouragement: Christmas Gift cards will be sent to the men serving in the military.

Prayer and Devotion: The sweet hour of prayer will be held Nov. 19 with a Harvest dinner following.

Stewardship & Support Services: Next meeting Saturday, Nov. 18 with the Ladies Ministry

Ladies Ministry: Work day with Stewardship. Ladies Christmas Party on Dec. 9 will be hosted by Ann Jacob at their home in Elgin.

Evangelism and Outreach: Senior Luncheons planned for Sat. Nov. 11 and Dec. 9.

Fellowship: Nov. 19 prepare gingerbread houses to be taken to Lexington with choir singing December 2.

Pastoral Counseling: Continues as planned.

Old and New Business:

- Ministry team calendar planning meeting for 2018 – November 11 at 10am
- CFC completion of three year campaign celebration Dec. 3rd, with guest speaker Jim Walters, Vision Ministries

Ministry Reminders:

Annual team Reports due Dec. 1

Elders will discuss the book, "Church in the Middle," January 10th at 6 p.m.

The next Elder's meeting will be on Wednesday, December 13th.



Kid's

Connection



JOY TO
The World

Time to Celebrate – the completion of our three year campaign
Hands of Service – Hearts of Love
from Dec. 1, 2014 to Nov. 2017

Celebration Sunday Dec. 3rd

We welcome Jim Walters, Vision Ministries - our partner in the campaign. He will help us celebrate with a heartfelt encouraging message. There will be a reception immediately following the worship service in the narthex.

**“The gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering,
an acceptable sacrifice,
pleasing to God.”**
Philippians 4:18

“There is no greater investment that we can make in this life than that of service in God’s Kingdom. We are partnering with God in the eternal work of His Kingdom in the hearts and lives of people.” Jim Walters

Thank you for joining this effort to demonstrate our unity in Christ, to grow our spiritual commitment and to insure a safe, well maintained church, attractive to our community. Many people donated their time and talents as examples of “Hands of Service.” The sincere, Spirit led, joy of giving was motivated by our “Hearts of Love.”

As of the end of October, we have not yet achieved our church goal of \$150,000. Since we know God is with us, working in our hearts, we know we can reach our goal. We accept the challenge to complete this campaign even after the three year time line.

**“And my God will meet all your needs
according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.
To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen”**
Philippians 4:19-20

**The campaign follow up committee was faithful:
Pastor Pete Weber, Fred King, and Nona Koivula**

This is your invitation to:

Pastor's Open House
On Sunday, December 31st,
At 5:00 p.m.



The Miracle of Christmas

The birth of Jesus has historic, as well as, present life-changing meaning. When Jesus was born, it changed history. The birth of Jesus was God's radical intervention in history. God loved us so much that God, became human flesh.

God who is omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient, became a helpless baby—Jesus!



Let us share the Christmas spirit and offer the gift of love to our families and communities.

Ladies Christmas Party
Saturday, December 9th, 4:00 p.m.
At Ann Jacob's home

Leave all your Christmas stress and distractions behind. Join your sisters in Christ for a fun afternoon. All ladies are invited, invite friends and family. Please let Ann or Nona know how many will be attending, to have enough seating.

Party details: Please bring a dish to share, and if you wish, a wrapped gift exchange (\$10)



MARK YOUR CALENDARS, and please join us for:

A Christmas Celebration

at the Lexington Healthcare in Bloomingdale
on Saturday, December 2nd at 2:00 p.m.

We will be singing Christmas Carols and helping the residents with Gingerbread House decorating.
Please contact Laura Grafer if you would like to be a part of this celebration or if you have any questions.



Second Saturday Senior Luncheon

Saturday, December 9th, 11:30-1:30 p.m.
at Sunny Place Church
Phone 630/398-2314 to reserve a place.



Sunday School Line-Up

Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

Adult
Bible
Study

"Difficult Texts"

The Scriptures that you may have wondered about, or wrestled with.

Led by John Gryparis



Thursday Evenings
7:00 p.m.
at Sunny Place



"Persistent Faith and Love"

A Bible Study through
1st & 2nd Thessalonians

Led by Pastor Pete

Children's Classes

Grades 4-7 led by Carla Weber

Youth 8-12 led by Sabra Martin

Nursery services are provided



December

2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Caroling and Gingerbread House Decorating, @ Lexington Healthcare 2:00 p.m. </div>
3  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> C.F.C. Celebration Reception 12:30 p.m. In the Narthex </div>	4	5	6	7 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place </div>	8	9 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Senior Luncheon 11:30 a.m. </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Ladies Christmas Party, 4:00 pm @Ann's home </div>
10 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Outreach Meeting 12:30 p.m. At Sunny Place </div>	11	12	13 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Elder's Meeting 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place </div>	14 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place </div>	15  Christmas Candlelight Service 7:00 pm. at SunnyPlace	16
17 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Afternoon of Prayer, light lunch following 12:30 p.m. at Sunny Place </div>	18	19	20 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Stewardship Meeting 6:30 p.m. at Sunny Place </div>	21 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place </div>	22	23
24 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Pastor's Open House, 5:00 pm </div>	25 	26	27	28 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place </div>	29	30
31 						