

# Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

February, 2020

## The World Reconciled is the World Saved

### RECONCILIATION

I have said many times that we do not live in the worst of times. We do not live in the best of times either – the best days only covered Genesis 1 and 2. But often, we hear the moans of those who believe humanity, and the world we live in, is so desperately lost and depraved that there is little hope to save it. The hand-wringing comes either with complaints that we need a new president – a better one – or better leaders in this world, who can fix it and save the world; or that the church has failed, and the only thing left that can stop the downward slide is the return of Jesus. But the reality is that salvation has come, and has been saving souls for two thousand years, and the world is being reconciled, even now, as you read these very words.

If you think back to the condition of the world at various times in history, you will find several times that were far more bleak than what is happening today. In Noah's time, the world was so full of violence and immorality that it grieved God's heart, and His Spirit would no longer contend with men the way He had up to that point. No one was spared in the world except Noah and his family. Only he was found to be blameless in God's eyes.

The days of the judges of Israel were dark as well. Idolatry was rampant in the kingdoms of the world. But even though God had rescued the Israelites from Egypt and revealed Himself to them as the only true and living God, the subsequent generations of Israel kept falling back into the idolatry of the nations around them. So the people, who

were supposed to be the light of God to the world, were instead consumed and defiled by the sin that surrounded them.

The same with the kings of Israel and Judah. After the days of David and Solomon, the kings of Israel and Judah were again enticed into idolatry. The result was Israel overtaken and decimated by Assyria, and Judah by the Babylonians. Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed, and all that was left was a small remnant of people, most of whom were taken into captivity in Babylon. There was only a handful of believers in the LORD, God, in the entire world at that time.

And what about in Jesus' time, when He was in the world? He Himself said over and over how wicked and depraved that generation was. The people were oppressed, not only by the Romans, and by their own religious leaders, but also by demon possession and debilitating sicknesses – the practice of the occult and sorcery was everywhere.

But Jesus came, as the Son of God, and as the Lamb of God, with a mission to give His life for the sins of the world. And He persevered in His mission. He was the only pure and perfect sacrifice because He was the only man who had never given in to sin; and no greater value could be placed on His sacrifice because He was the Son of God. By His death and resurrection, He reconciled the great debt that the sins of the world had incurred with God. And thereby, salvation for the world had begun.

(Continued on next page)

For everyone who believes and receives Him, the debt of sin is canceled, and one by one the world is being reconciled ... but not only reconciled: it is being saved, because now we live again in the power and presence of God. Sin has been defeated, and the new life we live, we live for God. Listen to how Paul describes it here:

6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! 10 For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! 11 Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. *Romans 5:6-11*

This reconciliation and salvation changes the world. One by one, as each person's life is reconciled and saved, the world begins to be made new. And it changes everything about the way we see the world, too. It changes everything for us. This message of reconciliation becomes ours to share. Listen to Paul again:

16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 18 All this is from

God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. *2 Corinthians 5:16-21*

This has been going on since the first century. People have been hearing that message and coming to Christ, being reconciled and saved through Him, day after day, and year after year, for two thousand years. And the world is vastly better because of it. People are receiving Christ Jesus even today.

Yes, the world is still full of trouble and chaos. The battle of good and evil, and battle for souls will continue. But the world is being reconciled and saved every time a soul says "Yes!" to the invitation to receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

And if you are in need of being reconciled to God, it is not too late for you either. Jesus' death paid the penalty for your sins too. He rose from the grave and is alive today sitting at the right hand of God. But if you will receive Him, He will sit on the throne of your heart as well. He will save you and empower you. You will be a new creation, and the world will be better for it – your world will be, for sure.

Be reconciled to God, so that in Christ Jesus, you might become the righteousness of God.

Blessings in Jesus,

Pastor Pete



**Connect**

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# TLC

Together Loving Christ

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

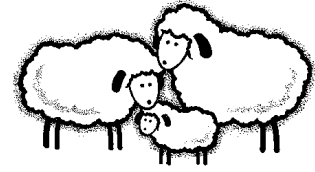
**J**oin with us in our Adult Study Group at Sunny Place every Thursday at 7:00 p. m.

**Grow in the Word!**

## Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.

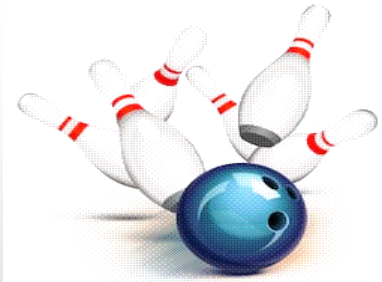
*Kid's Rock* available  
for children ages five to nine

*Nursery Services Provided*



Sunny Place Church  
Family Bowling  
Sunday, February 23rd  
1:00-4:00 p.m.

at Fritz's Spare Keys  
119 N. York Street  
Elmhurst



Come join us for a free fun filled afternoon of bowling.

Be sure to stay and check out their entertainment, and their large menu selection. You may want to split a pizza with others or purchase their \$6 burger Sunday special.

Visit us at: [www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org](http://www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org)



901 E. Oak Street, Addison, IL 60101

**Connecting Families With The Love Of Christ**

# Elders Minutes of Meeting held January 8, 2020

Attended by Pastor Pete Weber, Phyllis Clark, Tim Kasza, Ted Gehman, Glenda Kasza, Sam Jacob and Nona Koivula

**Prayer and Devotion** “Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence- continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life.” Philippians 2:12-16

## Ministry Reports

**Treasurer:** Budgeted Bank Balance \$1,250.59 Giving \$25,246.15 Expenses \$25,317.09

**Worship & Prayer:** On Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> the Worship medley consisted of 9 Hymns requested in advance. The congregation sang with spirited joy. There will be at least 4 more requested Hymn Sundays this year. There are 6 Worship Ministry team meetings planned for 2020. There are three families who will offer home worship during this year. The structure, dates and planning for these home worship events will be discussed in January. The Worship meeting will be Sunday Jan. 19 after the afternoon of prayer.

**Christian Education & Fellowship:** There will be a pot luck dinner on Sunday, Jan. 26 immediately prior to the Annual Business meeting.

**Pastoral Care & Encouragement:** Cards of encouragement were sent to people who have been missed. Pastoral care includes grief counseling for the families who recently lost loved ones. :

**Outreach & Missions:** The Senior Luncheons continue on the second Saturday of every month. The Missions Festival is in the planning phase for the first weekend in May.

**Stewardship & Support Services:** There was an annual inspection of the fire alarms, smoke detectors and control panel. Tim was present for this inspection and learned we passed the inspection. There are items to consider for the future to improve the system. There are three major expenses to consider for 2020. They are an Air Conditioning unit, a commercial chair lift and the seal coat for the parking lot.

## New and Old Business

- The 2020 annual budget was reviewed by the elders. Ted Gehman moved to accept the budget as shown and to submit to the congregation at the annual meeting. Tim Kasza seconded the motion and it passed.
- Elder nominations. There were two people nominated to be Elders. Tim Kasza moved to accept Scott Krout and Nona Koivula as Elder nominations. Phyllis seconded the motion and it passed.
- There will be an Elders & Ministry Team Leaders dedication and appreciation on Sunday Feb 9.
- Sunny Place Church has purchased Faithlife; an integrated suite of ministry tools for communications with our church to include Bible study software, Video courses, Sermon resources, Sunny Place web site, online giving and worship presentation software. Ministry teams will be learning the suite in the near future.

Next Elders meeting will be Feb. 5, 2020



Kid's

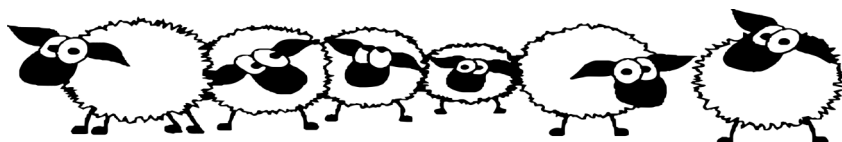
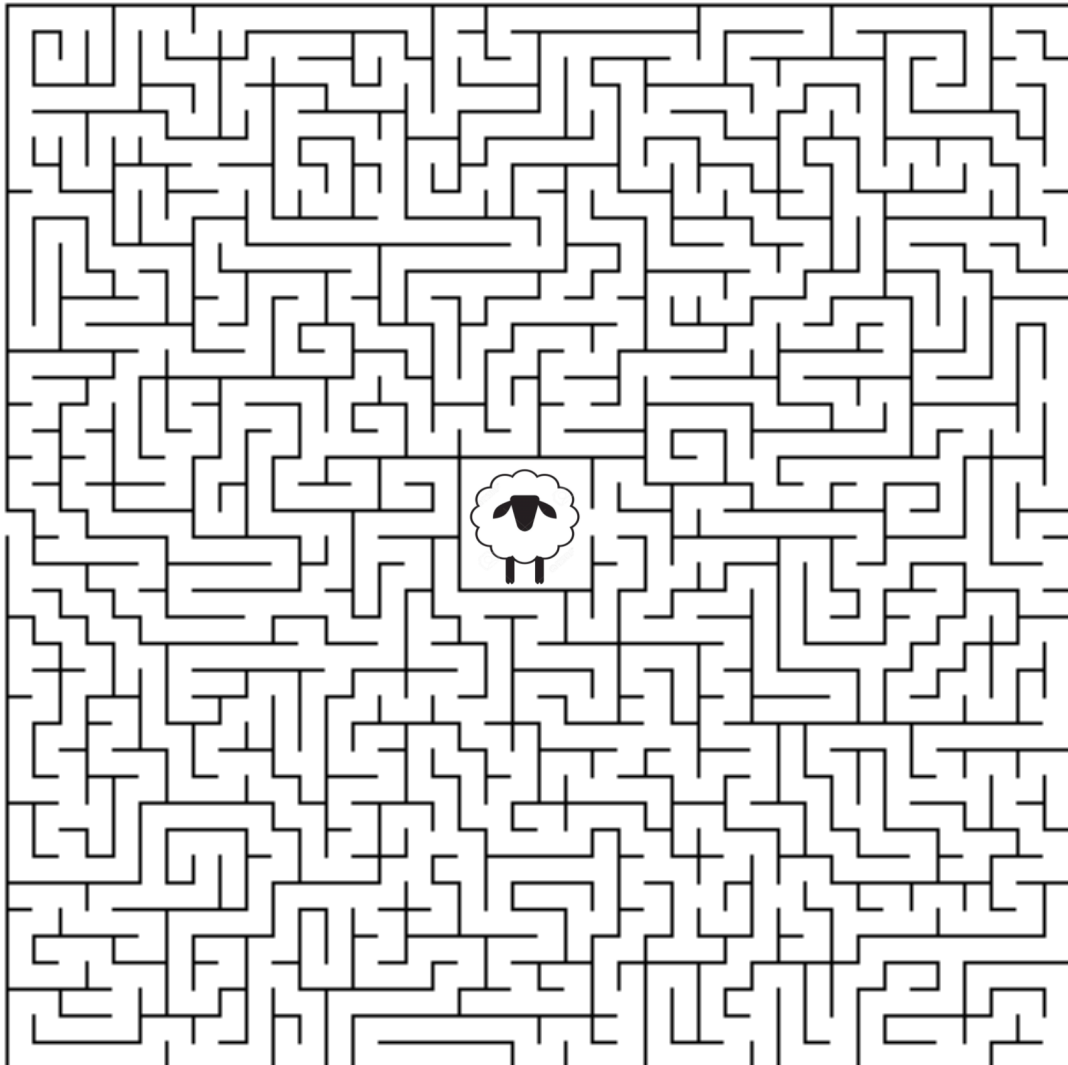
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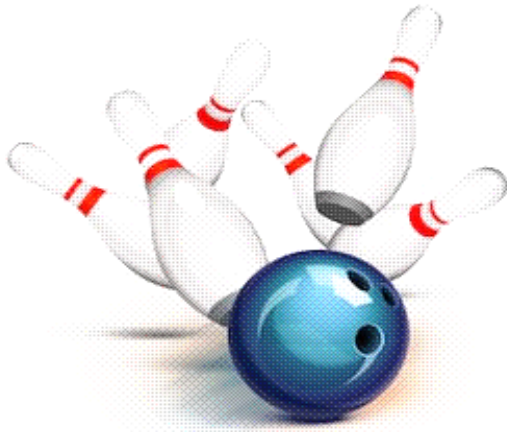
## Reconciliation

God's plan is to bring us back to Him after we have sinned. Jesus is the atonement for our sins so that we may be one with Him.



"And this is the will of Him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that He has given me..." John 6:39





Sunny Place Church  
Family Bowling  
Sunday, February 23rd  
1:00-4:00 p.m.

at Fritz's Spare Keys  
119 N. York Street  
Elmhurst

Come join us for a free fun filled afternoon of bowling.

Be sure to stay and check out their entertainment, and their large menu selection. You may want to split a pizza with others or purchase their \$6 burger Sunday special.

*Fitz's Spare Keys, located in the center of downtown Elmhurst, is a family owned, fun, lively and friendly restaurant offering great food and drink specials. This 24,000 square foot Live Music Venue, Vintage Bowling Alley and Pool Hall has 14 Bowling lanes, 6 pool tables and a Live Music room that features live performances on weekends.*



**Saturday, February 29th, 9:00 a.m.**  
**At Sunny Place Church**



## 2nd Saturday Senior Luncheon

February 8th

11:30 a.m.

At Sunny Place Church

Come be our guest for food  
Great speakers and activities.  
Free event for Seniors 55 & up.  
Register now at 630/398-2314

The power of reconciliation is immense. Forgiveness is one of the most potent forces in our world.

Forgiveness is unlocking the door to set someone free  
and...  
realizing you were the prisoner!

Max Lucado

## Afternoon of Prayer

Sunday, February 16th

After Worship Service,  
light lunch following

## Sunday School Line-Up

Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

### “God and the Church of God Revealed in Scripture”

What the Bible says about the nature of God and His Church.

Adult Bible Study

Led by Pastor Pete



## Thursday Evenings

7:00 p.m.

at Sunny Place



### “The Lessons of the Kings”

A Study of the four books of the Kings.

Led by Pastor Pete



## Children’s Classes

Led by Carla Weber

*Nursery services are provided*

# February 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2  Groundhog Day	3	4	5 Elders Meeting 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	6 Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	7	8 2nd Saturday Senior Luncheon 11:30 a.m. at Sunny Place
9 1 <sup>st</sup> Responders Baked Goods Missions, Outreach & Evangelism Meeting after Worship Service	10	11	12 Worship Leaders Meeting	13 Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	14 	15
16  BAPTISM Afternoon of Prayer, light lunch following after Worship Service	17  Presidents' Day	18	19 Christian Education & Fellowship Meeting 6:30 p.m. at Sunny Place	20 Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	21	22 NiCE Sewing 9:30 a.m. at Sunny Place
23  Family Bowling @ Fritz's Spare Keys, Elmhurst 1-4:00 p.m.	24	25	26 Worship Wednesday At Sam & Ann Jacob's home 6:30—8:30 p.m.	27 Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	28	29 Church Workday 9:00 a.m. at Sunny Place