

Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

April 2020

The Good Good News

“And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

--Luke 2:8-11

To the lowly first century shepherds of Bethlehem, these “good tidings” were about to change the world as they knew it. Oppressed, broken and dispirited, the Jewish nation struggled under harsh Roman rule as well as the inescapable and all-encompassing rule of sin in the flesh. By the time Jesus was born, the Jewish history was a long and sorry record of captivity from without and from within. The heaven-sent message of the Savior came to a people who, in the words of Isaiah, “*sat in darkness...and in the region and shadow of death.*” (Matthew 4:16). Yet, within their lifetime, this incredible news of the birth of the King of kings began to bring light into longing hearts and to bring real victory—spiritual victory—throughout the region and eventually the world. These first Gospel bearers faced many hardships, from the rejection of family and friends to torture and death. And yet, despite these difficulties, they persevered, delivering the message of hope to a spiritually starved and dying world.

But what compelled these first followers of Christ to go forth into the world with such boldness and passion? What made this news so important in their hearts and minds that many would choose to leave everything behind in the pursuit of taking the Good News to the neighboring cultures that were often hostile to the revelation of this God and to His deliverance from sin and death? How was this message important to the extent that even two millennia later, Christians in places like the Middle

East, Africa and China are empowered today to spread the Good News in the face of harsh persecution—sometimes to the point of death—as they follow the Master’s commission to “*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost....*” (Matthew 28:19).

Perhaps a more important question to answer is this: how has the message of the Gospel affected me? Does my life reflect the love, grace and promise that has been given to me by Christ? Do I have the same passion and love for the unsaved that my forefathers in the faith had or that my living sisters and brothers around the world have? Do my neighbors in the house next door or in the adjoining cubicle at work know what I believe? Do I tell them about their need for the Christ who died for all? If not, why not? If I do not have the zeal of those believers who risked all to bear this news to the world, maybe I need to reexamine this good news to gain a fresh appreciation for what I have in Him and what I need to do with Him.

Asking these questions and reading God’s Word has caused me to see that the Gospel is more than good news. To be sure, the content of the message is the best news ever given! But even more, it comes from the most real and trustworthy news source of all time. This is critically important to a world full of lop-sided reporting, in which journalists today deliver misleading and subjective coverage, infusing opinions and feelings in news writing that should be detached and objective. Or, quoting so-called experts to give incomplete, misleading or outright false information to back up the real agenda behind a ‘news’ story. I’m a news junkie, and I try to read as many perspectives as possible, but it has become increasingly difficult to find solid, objective and trustworthy news writing today. In my opinion, the ‘fake news’ label has been well-earned.

But the Gospel is different. It is good news because the message is good, but it is also trustworthy because the

(Continued on next page)

author is trustworthy. When we hear news today, we must understand that it comes from human beings—fallen and sin-sick human beings (Romans 3:23). This means that a news writer must work against his very nature to be truthful and objective in what he reports. Even for Christian writers, this can be difficult, since we are by nature both rational and emotional and we want to report on good or bad news and to tell our readers what we *feel* about it. God, on the other hand, has no such struggle, for He is truth, and His Word is truth and light (He is the Father of Light). So the Gospel fulfills what makes good old-fashioned news: true facts reported truthfully and completely, without omitting or cherry picking information to mislead or misinform the reader. The Good News answers all the important questions of any news story (the who, what, where, when, why and how questions) and it quotes the best authority on any and all subjects: God Almighty! We can trust His angelic news anchors who brought the Best News to the shepherds of Bethlehem and to the world. He is the best and most trustworthy news giver because He is the greatest of all authorities. It is no coincidence that the word ‘author’ forms the base for the word ‘authority.’ When we say that a person is the ‘authority’ on a subject, we recognize his or her depth and breadth of knowledge regarding that particular subject. In the case of the Good News, God is both the highest authority and the author of Salvation and our faith (Hebrews 5:9, 12:2). No one is more qualified or more trustworthy to give the Gospel message!

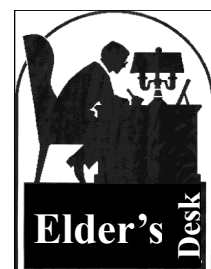
When I received God’s answer to my first prayer, I was astonished. At that time, I was a young journalist, working in a small town at a small town weekly newspaper. I took my writing seriously, and because of good training, I understood the importance of truthful and objective news reporting (I’m thankful for good professors!). My job as a reporter included government matters, crime, features and sports. I was also the photographer and, once a week, I had to set aside my objective news writer hat and write a weekly opinion piece as well. Every Tuesday night was spent both writing articles and developing photos the old-fashioned, pre-digital way: in the dark room with chemicals and rolls of silver chromate-covered film. It was there that I first prayed in earnest to God

and it was there that He answered my prayer in a way that I can only describe as supernatural, confirming, inspiring and, most of all, real. I had already prayed to God in that same dark room, asking for proof of His existence and promising to follow Him if He would show Himself to me. And there I was once again when the news came. Instantly I recognized that something about this message was different. For one thing, I hadn’t been asking questions about what to do with my life. In fact, I was pressing full steam ahead in the direction I wanted to go. I was following “...*the way that seems right to a man....*” (Proverbs 14:12). I remember clearly what I had wanted at that time in my life, right down to the number of goals I had established. But in that dark room, the message that came to me gave a clear and unmistakable answer to each one! It didn’t take long to look back and realize that the God of the universe had answered not only the questions I was asking and that seemed so important to me, but He answered the questions that I had not asked, and that were really the most important questions of all. I remember that time seemed to stand still while I considered what I had just experienced. Maybe, it was not unlike what those shepherds felt when the night was lit up by the appearance of the angelic messenger who bore the best news of all time to those poor and humble shepherds. I know that the dark room seemed light as day when God answered my prayer to Him!

Now, decades after receiving Christ by faith and accepting His free gift of Salvation, I realize that the Good News is really Good Good News! It’s good because we need it so much and it’s good because we can trust it completely. It is real news because the Author is real, and He is the Authority of all Authorities. Because He is both omniscient and omnipotent, He can be trusted to deliver the truth.

We believe in God, and so did the ancient Jewish shepherds who tended their flocks in the hills surrounding Bethlehem. Their world was dark, and salvation seemed hopeless. Likewise, our world is dark and full of sin, full of false gods and full of fake news. My prayer is that we may better understand and appreciate the Good News we have in Christ, so that we may face a world full of false and bad news and to hold up the Gospel with fearlessness, faith and love.

Scott Krout



Connect	Published by:
	Sunny Place Church of God 901 E Oak St, Addison IL 60101 Church Office (630) 530-1830 Editor: Lynn Drury
	Senior Pastor: Peter Weber Treasurer: Glenda Kasza Elders: Tim Kasza, President Phyllis Clark, Vice President Nona Koivula, Secretary Ted Gehman, Director Scott Krout, 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?

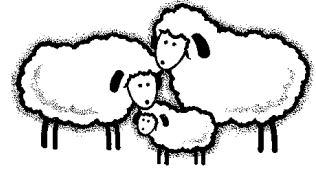
Join with us in our Adult Study Group at Sunny Place every Thursday at 7:00 p. m.

Grow in the Word!

Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.

Kid's Rock available
for children ages five to nine

Nursery Services Provided



"A Celebration of the Lord's Supper"
Thursday, April 9th, 6:00 p.m.
at Sunny Place Church, all are welcome!
Please reserve a seat.



Visit us at: www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org



901 E. Oak Street, Addison, IL 60101

Connecting Families With The Love Of Christ

Elders Minutes of Meeting held March 4, 2020

Attended by Pastor Pete, Phyllis Clark, Tim Kasza, Ted Gehman, Scott Krout and Glenda Kasza

Prayer and Devotion: 11 But you, man of God, flee from all this [controversy, quarrels, love of money], and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 13 In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you 14 to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ...

1 Timothy 6:11-14

Ministry Reports:

Treasurer: Budgeted Bank Balance: \$1012.15 Giving: \$10462 Expense: \$13795 Faith Promise: \$15950. Nobody has contributed funds through Faithlife Giving yet.

Worship & Prayer: Bobbie King and Lori Krout have joined the team. Scott Krout will be learning the sound board. Schedule for practice is changing: Effie will not be able to come on Saturday mornings, but will be flexible to practice during the week. Discussed how practice is needed to honor the Lord. Talked also about the Worship Wednesday format and schedule. Wanda Sowell will be preparing a skit for Palm Sunday. Effie also would like others on the team to learn to use Faithlife Proclaim.

Christian Education & Fellowship: We discussed not having younger children now, and no longer having the Kid's Rock program. Also talked about what we can do to disciple the new believers we have now. And we talked about adding new members to the team.

Pastoral Care & Encouragement: Worked on shower for Ellery on March 22. A handout "In Pursuit of Jesus" will be given on Easter Sunday. Eva has been working on visitation with some of the new women attending the church.

Outreach & Missions: Sr. Luncheons going well. Mission's Festival promotion is to begin immediately after Easter. There will be an Outreach outing to visit an orphanage in Chicago on the Saturday of the Fest.

Stewardship & Support Services: Jacob Garcia is now on the team. Only the team members attended the Work Day, so we need to do more to promote this; but a lot was accomplished. Many inside projects were done (16 items): replacing lights, cleaning carpeting, tightening railings, changing filters, etc. Next Work Day is April 25th.

Old and New Business:

Elder's Retreat: Scheduled for Saturday, March 21 (Postponed due to COVID-19)

Faithlife Equip: We are making progress on signing all our leaders on, and learning more functionality. Proclaim has been more challenging, so we expect it to be rolled out later.

Funding for Maintenance: We have had some funds contributed (\$450), but we will need to socialize and promote this, because the need is on the order of \$15000.

Church Security/Safety: Tim suggested we re-open policy and training on this, next time.

Next Elder's Meeting: March 20th 6pm on zoom.



Kid's

Connection



What is Easter?

**It's not about eggs to hunt, it's not about a bunny,
it's not about brand new clothes,
or candy as sweet as honey.**

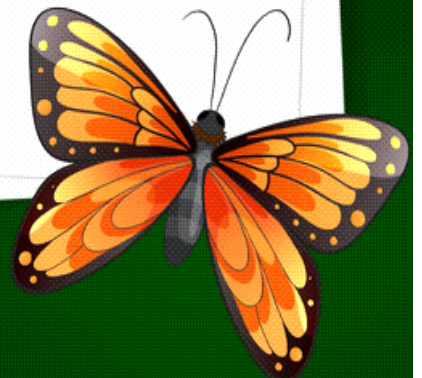
**On this day many years ago, a man named Jesus Christ,
upon a cross for you and me, gladly gave His life.**

**Not for sins that He had done,
or crimes He must repay,
He did it all for you and me,
for our sins, He died that day.**

**But that's not the end of Jesus Christ,
They put Him in a grave.**

**But three days later, He rose again,
our sin debt had finally been paid.**

**So this Easter as you hunt for eggs
dressed up in brand new
clothes, don't think about
the Easter Bunny,
think about why Christ arose.**



2nd Saturday Senior Luncheon

Saturday, April 11th
11:30 am
Sunny Place Church

Come be our guest for great food,
great speakers, and fun activities.

Free event for Seniors 55 & up.
Register now at 630/398-2314.



Afternoon of Prayer

Sunday,
April 19th

After Worship Service,
light lunch following

Worship Wednesday

The next Wednesday Worship meeting will be
April 22nd, 6:30 until 8:30 p.m.
at the Sterkel home, 769 W. Thornwood Drive, South Elgin

There will be games, food brought and shared from the group,
worship music, Bible study and prayer.

This is a great opportunity not only to meet in worship to our Lord,
but also to get to know our Church members.
Please let them know is you plan to attend.





NiCE Foundation Sewing Service Project!

Saturday, April 18th

9:30 a.m. at Sunny Place Church

Come join us, the sew-n-sew sisters, as we trace, cut, and sew much needed items for the less fortunate ladies of Nicaragua.

These projects are ongoing and we hope to provide this service on a continual basis. Join us as we serve the Lord while enjoying fellowship together.

Please see Laura with any questions.



Church Work Day

Saturday, April 25th,
9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.



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.



Led by
Pastor Pete



Children’s Classes

Led by Carla Weber

Nursery services are provided

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

APRIL SHOWERS

April SHOWERS
BRING May
FLOWERS

2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
				<div data-bbox="943 653 1133 779" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place</p> </div>		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
 <p>Palm Sunday</p>			 <p>The Passover</p>			<div data-bbox="1344 974 1539 1087" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>2nd Saturday Senior Luncheon 11:30 a.m. at Sunny Place</p> </div>
<div data-bbox="99 932 305 1094" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Missions, Outreach & Evangelism Meeting after Worship</p> </div>				<div data-bbox="943 932 1133 1087" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>A Celebration of the Lord's Supper 6:00 p.m. at Sunny Place</p> </div>		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
			<div data-bbox="737 1241 922 1402" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Christian Education and Fellowship Mtg. 6:30 p.m. at Sunny Place</p> </div>	<div data-bbox="943 1276 1133 1402" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place</p> </div>		
						<div data-bbox="1344 1297 1539 1402" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>NiCE Sewing 9:30 a.m. at Sunny Place</p> </div>
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
						
<div data-bbox="99 1541 305 1717" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Afternoon of Prayer, light lunch following after Worship Service</p> </div>			<div data-bbox="737 1562 922 1717" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Worship Wednesday Glenn & Marci Sterkel's home 6:30-8:30 p.m.</p> </div>	<div data-bbox="943 1583 1133 1717" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place</p> </div>		
						<div data-bbox="1344 1583 1539 1717" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Church Workday 9-1:00 p.m. at Sunny Place</p> </div>
26	27	28	29	30		
<div data-bbox="99 1892 305 2011" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Fellowship Luncheon TBA</p> </div>						