



2016 Report to congregations

St. Dysmas Lutheran in two locations; behind the walls of the SD State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls, and inside Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield, want to thank you for your partnership in ministry and support for our congregations. Your generosity has enabled our congregations to flourish and grow. Congregations provide one third of our budget, individual donors the other two thirds. Obviously, your support is crucial.

As we continue to celebrate our 25th anniversary year we invite your congregation to celebrate a St. Dysmas Sunday sometime in 2016. We are excited to share with you a video in the coming weeks which will give you an opportunity to hear from two of our congregation members how much St. Dysmas means to them. We think you'll be impressed and hope you will use the video in worship, at a council meeting or with adult or high school youth forums.

Pastor Bob Chell is eager to visit your congregation and share more with you about our ministry. Because we rely on your support we request that you take a special offering when he visits, or when you celebrate St. Dysmas Sunday. We will gladly provide addressed envelopes. Just contact our office via phone or email; (605) 388-1735 or info@stdysmas.com.

We also want thank those of you who have worshiped with us in Sioux Falls or Springfield and invite those of you who haven't yet visited to come and see! We promise you a hospitable welcome and a dynamic worship experience. One of the keys to the success of our congregation is the PCA model. PCA is Prison Congregations of America, who founded our congregation 25 years ago. One of the unique features of a PCA congregation is our partnership with outside congregations. It means the world to the men to have outside visitors. For many, it is the only opportunity they will have to talk to someone who is not paid to be in the prison or a fellow inmate. The hour they spend in chapel each week is the only hour they are called by their first name and are known as a man and Child of God first and an inmate second.

Those who have visited are Christ to the inmates as they are to you in the mystery and miracle of Christian fellowship. Pastor Kwen, in Springfield, and I, in Sioux Falls, work hard to proclaim a word of grace and forgiveness each week but it's the presence of outside visitors which transforms our sermons from theology to an experienced reality for both inmates and visitors. Please come. It will not be what you expect. It will be more than you hope for.

Pastor Bob Chell
on behalf of St. Dysmas of South Dakota

Visit us at www.stdysmas.com to learn more about us or to contact us.

When you do, click the link and listen to SD Public Radio's interview with the St. Dysmas Council in Sioux Falls

Contact information:

Phone: (605) 388-1735

Email: info@stdysmas.com

Address: 1300 E. 10th St. Sioux Falls, SD 57103