Ginny is our latest loss -- In the short span of eight months, our small yet resilient congregation has lost eight members: Bud Bushway, Dee Woullet, Robert Tandberg, Jack Reay, Faith Gose, Lorraine Keiran, Richard Kunitz, and on September 8, Ginny Boe. 2018 at SOC will be remembered by family, friends and members for its large number of angel dates.

Recent church directories show Ginny and Lloyd Boe scattered throughout the pages, whether it was their participation in Active Adults, the Christmas Tea, in the kitchen, or in Halloween costumes. They were both in the fabric of our congregation, and that has been pulled from us. Like others, I spoke with Ginny on the Sunday before her very sudden passing, at the age of 90, and I must say, I will miss her honest assessment of things. If you wanted the unvarnished truth, Ginny was your source. As others have described her, she was the quintessential church lady, and a talented cook with terrific recipes.

The large turnout at her service here this past Friday was a testament to just how much Ginny was loved. She will be missed by those of us at SOC -- and beyond the walls of her beloved home church.

The kids are all right -- if I'm a visitor to our sanctuary on Spirit Sunday, Sept. 9, looking for a church home, it's very likely that I would have been impressed by the service. I would have heard the voice of SOC's youth, and would have nodded in agreement, with a knowing smile. Sure, they were talking about their experiences at a national youth gathering in Texas, where nearly 32,000 young people got the very real opportunity to practice the tenants of Lutheranism, share, and learn lifelong lessons.

But there was something that transcended their talk of the convention. If I had slipped into the narthex and stood in the back as an unbiased newcomer, I would have absorbed an atmosphere where youth and their thoughts mattered, where an implied support of this church's younger members was clear. As they served as worship assistants at the head of the church, one could be forgiven for feeling a sense of relief at what was going on. Here at Spirit of Christ, we have real, bone fide young members willing to travel a great distance into unknown territory to meet other like-minded curious kids in search of the real teachings of their faith. To me, that shows character, courage and leadership. At the risk of repeating a cliché, evidence here shows that the future is in good hands.

A busy basement, too -- In addition to the start of the Sunday School season, Spirit Sunday also consisted of a spirited group tying four quilts for the SOC Blanket Project and assembling 144 basic personal care packets for the needy at Our Saviours Shelter on Chicago Avenue in south Minneapolis. While helping serve a wonderful lunch at church, our very dedicated Social Action team also served dinner at the shelter this past Friday. All who work in our church kitchen for anything and everything are often overlooked, and we somehow just expect the tables will be set up, dishes will be cleaned, food items will be served, and the coffee, hot. You do not hear this enough: Thank you for your important and necessary work!

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