Greetings

We are pleased to share with you our latest newsletter. This issue contains information about our newest website content, which includes the minutes of the Council of Fifty, and an article that offers insight into Joseph Smith’s tenacity during a particularly trying time of his life. This issue of the newsletter also highlights a new church history that relies heavily on the scholarship of the Joseph Smith Papers.

Please take a few minutes to read about our latest efforts as well as the work of others to share the history of the church.

Sincerely,

Ronald K. Esplin, Matthew J. Grow, Matthew C. Godfrey, and R. Eric Smith

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Minutes of Council of Fifty Now Online

On 11 March 1844 in Nauvoo, Illinois, Joseph Smith organized a council that he and his closest associates saw as the beginning of the literal kingdom of God on earth. Among other things, the council explored possible Latter-day Saint settlement sites outside the boundaries of the United States and oversaw Joseph Smith’s electioneering campaign for United States president. In 2016, the Joseph Smith Papers Project published in print the minutes from the Council of Fifty in Nauvoo. We are pleased to announce that those minutes are now available on our website, including images of the record books.

Read more ▸
An Illinois Reunion: A Lesson in Joseph Smith’s Tenacity

By Elizabeth A. Kuehn, Volume Editor

Those interested in the life of Joseph Smith are usually quite familiar with his incarceration in Clay County, Missouri, during the winter of 1838–1839 and the trials and soul-searching of that period. But perhaps less well-known is what came after Smith was reunited with his family and followers. After his harrowing imprisonment, one might expect him to have withdrawn from leadership and focused for a time on his own needs. Yet, demonstrating remarkable resiliency, he instead chose to focus on the needs of the Latter-day Saints, setting in motion plans that would shape the church for years to come.

Read more►

First Volume of Saints Now Available

For the first time in nearly one hundred years, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is releasing a new multivolume work about its history. The first volume of Saints: The Story of the Church of Jesus Christ in the Latter Days, which covers key events in the early history of the church, is now available in print, online, and in the Gospel Library app. Subtitled “The Standard of Truth,” the first volume tells the story of the church beginning in 1815 with Joseph Smith’s childhood and concludes with Latter-day Saints worshipping in the Nauvoo temple in 1846 before their exodus west.

Read more►
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- Write a review for one of our books on Amazon, DeseretBook.com, or Goodreads.
- Encourage your local public or campus library to purchase our books. Libraries generally respond to patrons’ purchase requests.

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