

Shepherd of Peace Lutheran Church



1 Chronicles 16:34 - Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!

Outside my back door is a bird feeder.

Holding about ten pounds of seed, this is a large, well-stocked bird feeder. Understand, this contraption is not a squirrel feeder. In truth I do not like footing the feed bill for the multitudes of ravenous squirrels that hang around.

This is why this bird feeder is designed to give those unwelcomed trespassers a small electric shock. Understand, this shock isn't strong enough to hurt or harm; it's got just enough of a tingle to make the furry interlopers feel it's in their best interest to move on.

But I've wandered. I begin again: outside my back door is a bird feeder. In the last two years, it has provided a smorgasbord of seed, a never-empty treasure trove of tasty treats for the cardinals, finches, sparrows, woodpeckers, nuthatches, and other winged friends that regularly, almost religiously, help themselves to the bounty I have provided for them.

Now, you might think that every once in a while one or two of those feathered freeloaders might feel some kind of obligation to stop their feeding and say, "Hey, Reverend, thanks a lot. We just want to let you know your efforts have not gone unnoticed or unappreciated."

A person might think that would happen, but it hasn't.

Not once, not once in these years have any of those birds said a word of gratitude. They haven't come to my window and tapped out a word of appreciation in Morse code. In the Disney cartoons, birds are friendly little beasts who do the dishes and help with housework. That hasn't happened.

On the contrary, when I come out my back door, the birds give a chirp of annoyance and fly away. Upon occasion, one of the braver birds will show his displeasure by landing in a place of relative security. Make it perfectly clear he is outraged by my unannounced interruption of his meal.

I think the Lord must feel the same way about us.

Consider, at the beginning of human history, God created a perfect world. Wonderful weather, an inviting environment, fantastic food were just the beginning of the gifts. But there was more. He gave our first ancestors perfect health, which would have lasted forever.

And what was Adam and Eve's reaction to all this God-given perfection? Did they spend age after endless age singing His praises? Not hardly! The opening chapters of the Bible tell how Satan came slithering in and suggested how, without too much work on their parts, Adam and Eve might be able to improve upon God's generosity. Scripture tells how our first parents embraced sin and, from that moment until now, in human hearts gratitude toward God is often displaced by discontent, which is not the way it should be.

Unlike my birds, we need to stop what we're doing and say "Thank You" to the Lord. We need to express our gratitude for His Son whose entire life was a sacrifice offered up to save sinful humanity. We need to show our appreciation for the Redeemer who forgives our sins and changes our eternity.

THE PRAYER: Dear Lord, forgive my ingratitude, and accept my thanks for Your blessings which continue to be given in spite of me and not because of me. In Jesus' Name. Amen.



In Christ I remain His servant and yours,

Pastor Ken Klaus
Speaker emeritus of **The Lutheran Hour**[®]
Lutheran Hour Ministries

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Shepherd of Peace Lutheran Church
There's always a place for you at SOP!
449 Millwood Circle
Maumelle, AR 72116
Phone: 501-851-4546
Email: shepeace@sbcglobal.net

Theological Jargon: Vestments

Vestments are the special robes and other accessories (for lack of a better term) that I wear for services at church. Some may wonder why we pastors even bother to go to all the trouble of putting them on - especially during hot Arkansas summers - but there is a good reason that pastors wear robes, etc. rather than just showing up in a suit and tie or something like that.

The first example of vestments is actually laid out in the scriptures. God prescribed that certain vestments be worn by the priests when they were performing their duties (Exodus 28:1-2 and Exodus 39, for example). While the requirement for wearing these vestments was abrogated by Christ's death and resurrection, there still developed some traditions within the early Christian church the use of vestments. The general idea of vestments is that they cover the man who wears them and denotes that he is the man who is appointed to preach, teach, and administer the sacraments in this place. As a man, the pastor is no different than any other member of the congregation, but according to the office into which he has been placed (the office of pastor), he is the one who is to perform the functions of the pastoral office. The vestments that I wear make it clear that I am the one who is among you to give you the gifts of God won by Christ on the cross. Here are some details about the vestments you may see me wearing:

Alb - The alb is the white robe that I put on first each Sunday morning before the service. Mine happens to have a hood and opens and closes in the front. Some albs are simply pulled over the head like a shirt. The alb is white because it symbolizes the innocence and the robe of righteousness which is ours as the baptized.

Stole - The stole is the colored band of cloth that hangs around my neck over my stole and drops down to the middle of my shins or so. The color matches the liturgical color for the season and often includes embroidered symbols appropriate to the season in the Church Year. While some of the other vestments may be worn by men assisting in the worship service, the stole is only worn by one who is ordained. My stole is often hidden on Sunday mornings under my chasuble.

Chasuble - Literally, chasuble means "little house." It is the primary vestment for services with Holy Communion and is worn by the celebrant (the pastor who is presiding over the Lord's Supper). It is basically a large poncho that goes over the alb and the stole and matches the color for the season in the Church Year.

Cassock - The cassock is technically not a vestment, but rather is worn under vestments. My everyday dress of black shirt with clergy collar and black pants is essentially a modern-day version of the cassock. At one time (and still sometimes in Europe, in particular) the cassock was the everyday wear of the clergyman. You will see me wearing a cassock, though, anytime there is a service without the Lord's Supper (typically a mid-week Advent or Lenten service). It is a long, black robe that has buttons running down the front.

Surplice - The surplice is the white vestment that is worn over the top of the cassock. Again, you'll see me wearing a surplice for any service where there is no communion.

There are numerous other vestments that are used in the Church that are less common, but all of them serve the same function. They clue us in that the person wearing these things is doing the Lord's work of handing out the gifts of the cross.

In Christ,
Pastor Vandercook





By Pastor David Vandercook

The mission of Higher Things is to assist parents, pastors, and congregations in cultivating a distinctly Lutheran identity among their youth and young adults. As a pastor who's brought groups to Higher Things Conferences for the past five years, I can say with confidence that this is precisely what happens at Higher Things Conferences each summer. This summer, as we anticipate the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther posting his 95 Theses to the church door at Wittenberg, the theme "Here I Stand" was especially appropriate.

At Higher Things, when it's time for worship, we worship. Each time the opening Divine Service begins for a Higher Things Conference, I'm taken aback by the sheer volume of the singing, as 300+ voices are joined together. What is sung is nothing other than the hymns and the liturgy of our church. There are hymns from throughout history that deliver to us Jesus, who lived and died for us that we might have life in His name. This continues through all the services: Matins each morning, Vespers each afternoon, Evening Prayer each evening, Compline before lights-out each night, and the closing Divine Service on Friday afternoon before everyone goes home. All of these services (taken directly from the hymnal, by the way) deliver to us the goods of the cross—the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation—through the proclamation of the Word, faithful Law-Gospel preaching, Holy Absolution, and the giving and receiving of the very body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Likewise, when it's time to learn, we learn. In the first half of the Conference, our plenary sessions went through a timeline of history that stretched from the birth of Christ to today. Dr. Carl Fickenschler showed how significant the Lutheran Reformation was, even though it only consisted of 50 or so years on a timeline that stretches for over 2,000 years. It was made clear that the story of Martin Luther and the Reformation was not just all about Luther, but rather it is a story about Jesus. It is about how the gifts that Jesus won on the cross make it all the way to us here in 2017. During the second half of the Conference, Pastor Aaron Fenker took us through the four "Solas" (Christ Alone, Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Scripture Alone) of the Reformation. We were reminded that Christ saved us by grace alone through faith alone in Him alone, and that all of this is revealed to us in Scripture alone.

Then there are the breakout sessions. These offered a wide variety of opportunities to learn about just about every topic under the sun. What do you want to learn about? Want to hear about God's Word says about things like dating, marriage, homosexuality, and women's roles in the church? Want to learn about exorcisms in the Lutheran church or more about Luther's teaching on vocation? Want to learn about what other religious groups like Mormons, Mennonites, and the Amish believe? How about learning about the history or structure of the Lutheran liturgy or learning a bit about playing the pipe organ? Higher Things has it all covered. I think the most difficult thing that many of my kids had to do during the course of the Conference was make some tough decisions about which sectionals they would attend! While the conferences are for youth, adults would and do find themselves right at home in these, too. Finally, when it's time to play, we play. While the schedule each day is rigorous, there's also time to play at Higher Things. Each evening provided something for everyone. Some participated in the Medieval Fashion Show, the chant-off, or the talent show. Others played board or card games. Still others had the opportunity to play basketball, volleyball, nine square in the air, or archery tag. We were even treated to a fireworks show in Mars Hill on Independence Day.

Higher Things is like all other youth events in that it does all the same things that any youth event does: it allows for fellowship between youth. A Higher Things Conference provides youth with the opportunity to meet new people and to have fun. The congregations that I serve are small and located in areas where there very few Lutherans around in general. It's always good for the youth I bring to see that they are not alone in this world. Here is where the similarities end, really.

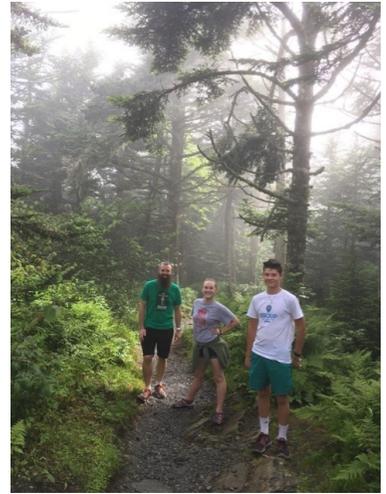
With Higher Things, there is so much more than that. Higher Things conferences do exactly what they say they do. It is unapologetically Lutheran. It doesn't just tell kids that they are Lutherans. It teaches kids what it means to be Lutheran. And most importantly, it teaches why it matters to stay a Lutheran.

Pastor Vandercook serves Shepherd of Peace Lutheran Church in Maumelle, AR, and Trinity Lutheran Church in North Little Rock, AR.

Summer



Senior Youth



Higher Things Conference





Girl Scout Troop 6289, lead by Kathy Walls, has been very busy this past summer helping to beautify the church and grounds. They changed out the flowers in the pots they planted to lead us into fall. Then they spent several days inside painting the Narthex and hallways. It was a lot of work and really puts a bright and fresh appearance on as you walk in the door. They wanted to say thank you for allowing them to use our fellowship hall for their meetings and what a thank you it is!

Girl Scout Troop 6289



2017 FALL RETREAT

The Mid-South District LWML Christian Life Committee is preparing for a retreat to be held in September 2017. The retreat will be a two night stay, beginning on Friday afternoon and continuing through Sunday morning, and will include searching scripture through Bible studies, enjoying fellowship through discussion, singing and conversation, and celebrating our lives in Christ. The theme for this bi-annual event is Beautiful Feet. **REGISTRATION FORMS CAN BE FILLED OUT ON LINE or PRINTED AND SENT IN.** (See website below)

Esther Mahnken will be taking her van to the retreat. Let her know if you would like to ride along. 501-416-2272 or emritewell@yahoo.com

You must take care of your own registration or let Esther know if you need help.



Arkansas Retreat
Camp Mitchell Retreat Center, Morrilton, AR
September 8-10

[Registration form](#) / [Website](#)

http://www.midsouthlwml.org/web_documents/LWML_2017_Retreat_Registration_Arkansas%20Fillable.pdf

"Simon, Simon"





Farewell

Smith Family

Jason, Carol, Connor, and Sloane joined us this past weekend both at Casa Mexicana on Friday evening and at church on Sunday morning to bid us a final farewell. They joined SOP in March of 2007 and quickly became part of the family. Connor was baptized here on April 22, 2007 and Sloane followed on April 18, 2010. Jason served as property maintenance manager and on our BoD and Carol served as our Treasurer for many years. They were a vital part of this family and will be dearly missed. We wish them a good and happy life out in Colorado.



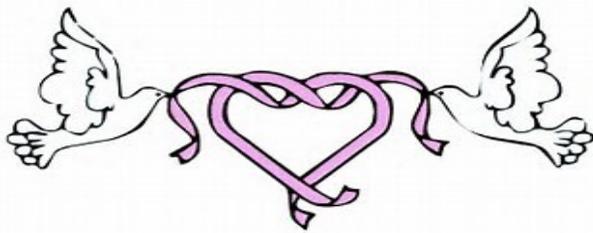
Special Days in August



- 8-04 Les & Kathy Browning (a)
- 8-05 Marc Higgins (b)
- 8-11 Peter & Phillis Christiansen (a)
- 8-14 Mark Bowen (b)
- 8-14 Ken Flemmons (b)
- 8-16 Jerri Shertzer (b)
- 8-17 Carley Flakoll (b.6)
- 8-18 Kathy Browning (b)
- 8-18 Will & Teresa Creasman (a)
- 8-18 Esther Mahnken (b)
- 8-19 Jeremy & Dani Ausburn (a)
- 8-19 Tony & Tracy Wray (a)
- 8-20 Briana Gebhardt (b,21)
- 8-25 Jeanie Filter (b)
- 8-27 Christy Rabeneck (b)
- 8-27 Jason Smith (b)
- 8-28 Daniel Steiner (b)
- 8-30 Jimmy Womack (b)



- 8-10 Bible Study begins, 10:30am
- 8-10 Auditions for "Rumors", 6-8pm
- 8-12 Auditions for "Rumors", 2-4pm
- 8-12 Men's Prayer Breakfast, 8am
- 8-14 BoD meeting, 6:30pm
- 8-19 Choir Startup, American Pie, 11:30am
- 8-22 CBI group from MMS returns



September 10th is Sunday School Kickoff!
We will meet back at the church from 4-6
for a picnic. Sign-up sheet will be up on
the bulletin board next week!

Crossword

by David K. Shortless

"Simon, Simon"

Jesus had a brother named Simon. "Is this not the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon?" (Mark 6:3). However, he is not found in this puzzle.

ACROSS

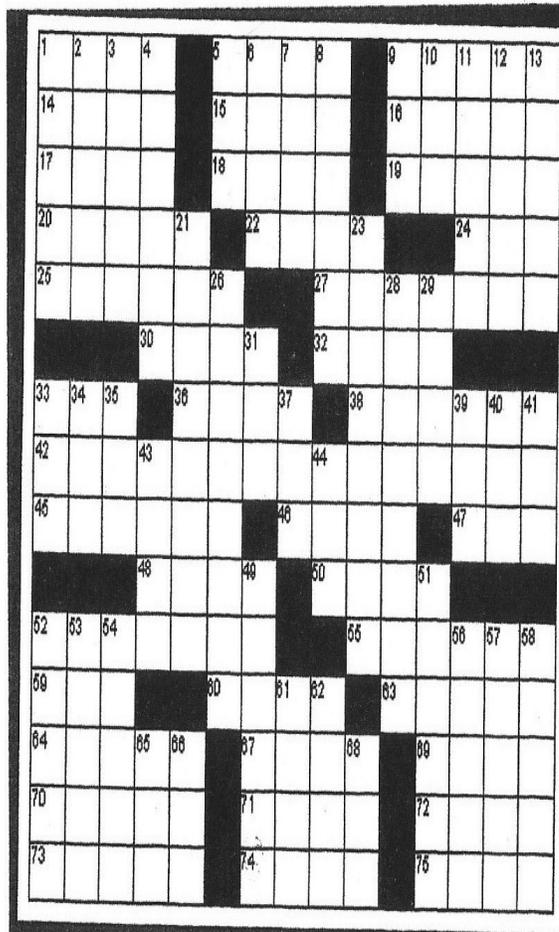
- 1 An early city of the tribe of Judah (Joshua 15:26)
- 5 "Behold the ___ of God!" (John 1:36)
- 9 A SIMON WHO HAD AN INFAMOUS SON NAMED ___ (John 13:26)
- 14 Nothing in Nogales
- 15 A grandson of Esau (Genesis 36:10-11)
- 16 "We spend our years as ___ that is told" (Psalm 90:9) (2 words)
- 17 "___ with joy receiveth it" (Matthew 13:20)
- 18 "Change my ___ because I am perplexed" (Galatians 4:20 NIV)
- 19 Faux silk
- 20 A SIMON FROM SAMARIA WHO PRACTICED ___ (Acts 8:9, 11 NIV)
- 22 Ukrainian capital
- 24 "___ God blessed them" (Genesis 1:22)
- 25 Short literary pieces
- 27 A SIMON, ONE OF THE TWELVE, CALLED ___ (Luke 6:15)
- 30 Canadian First Nation member
- 32 City in Harar province, Ethiopia
- 33 "Stand in ___, and sin not" (Psalm 4:4)
- 36 "They may ___ whole month" (Numbers 11:21) (2 words)
- 38 "O God, do not ___ my plea" (Psalm 55:1 NIV)
- 42 A SIMON AS JESUS ADDRESSED HIM (John 21:15) (4 words)
- 45 Artist's workplace
- 46 Lute, harp, and piano ensemble
- 47 "Neither hath the ___ seen" (Isaiah 64:4)
- 48 "___ my Father are one" (John 10:30) (2 words)
- 50 "Keep a tight ___ on his tongue" (James 1:26 NIV)

52 A SIMON WHO LIVED BY THE SEA

- AND WAS ___ (Acts 10:6)
(2 words)
- 55 Epitomes of slowness
 - 59 "___ his son" (1 Chronicles 7:27)
 - 60 "Some would even ___ to die" (Romans 5:7)
 - 63 One of the first seven deacons (Acts 6:5)
 - 64 Dizzy with joy
 - 67 "God ___ the increase" (1 Corinthians 3:6)
 - 69 Bathe
 - 70 "Death will ___ them" (Revelation 9:6 NIV)
 - 71 "An ___ for every man" (Exodus 16:16)
 - 72 "Had no ___ who it was" (John 5:13 NIV)
 - 73 A SIMON LIVING IN BETHANY WHO WAS A ___ (Matthew 26:6)
 - 74 "Where are the ___?" (Luke 17:17)
 - 75 Social misfit

DOWN

- 1 "He had ___ written" (Revelation 19:12) (2 words)
- 2 "I said, Should such a ___ I flee?" (Nehemiah 6:11) (2 words)
- 3 "Am I ___ head" (2 Samuel 3:8) (2 words)
- 4 "The inspired man a ___" (Hosea 9:7 NIV)
- 5 "From the ___ of our inheritance" (Numbers 36:3)
- 6 "Sallu, ___ Hilkiach" (Nehemiah 12:7)
- 7 "What a wretched ___ am!" (Romans 7:24 NIV) (2 words)
- 8 "A passing ___ that does not return" (Psalm 78:39 NIV)



- 9 "With her ___ on her shoulder" (Genesis 24:45 NIV)
- 10 Actress Hagen
- 11 "Then the same ___ evening" (John 20:19) (2 words)
- 12 "He ___ on the land" (Mark 6:47)
- 13 "He ___ you abundant showers" (Joel 2:23 NIV)
- 21 A SIMON WHO BORE THE CROSS FOR JESUS AND WAS A ___ (Mark 15:21)
- 23 Substantiates
- 26 "Wherewith shall it be ___?" (Luke 14:34)
- 28 Knee (2 words)
- 29 "Whether he be a sinner ___, I know not" (John 9:25) (2 words)
- 31 Arena where 65 Down commanded (abbr.)
- 33 "The foal of an ___" (Matthew 21:5)
- 34 "To ___ Israel" (Nehemiah 11:3)
- 35 Australian big bird
- 37 "Go to the ___, thou sluggard" (Proverbs 6:6)
- 39 "Love ___ another" (1 John 3:23)
- 40 "Without a ___ of brightness?" (Amos 5:20 NIV)
- 41 NNE + 90 degrees
- 43 Viking's Zeus
- 44 Hockey's Bobby
- 49 "Wounded the ___?" (Isaiah 51:9)
- 51 "To give us a ___ his holy place" (Ezra 9:8) (2 words)
- 52 "It is his ___" (Acts 12:15)
- 53 Sheer fabric
- 54 "On to Daberah ___ to Japhia" (Joshua 19:12 NIV) (2 words)
- 56 "Which ___ before Titus" (2 Corinthians 7:14) (2 words)
- 57 "A ___ of good men" (Titus 1:8)
- 58 Golfer Sammy
- 61 "The two-horned ___ had seen" (Daniel 8:6 NIV) (2 words)
- 62 "And, behold, I, ___!" (Genesis 6:17)
- 65 WWII general (initials)
- 66 "Your" to a hillbilly
- 68 "___ the lamp of God went out" (1 Samuel 3:3)