

# The Shepherd's Voice

February 2015

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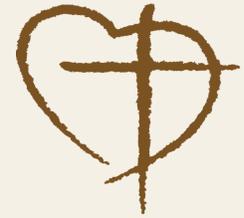
## Sharing God's Love

At the heart of stewardship is the love of God has shown to us through His Son, Jesus. Because He loves us, He has given us “redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us...” (Ephesians 1:7-8). God is not stingy with His gifts: He “lavishes” them on us. Forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation would be enough, wouldn't they? But God chooses to give us more gifts – the gifts of His creation to care for, food and clothing, family and friends, and much more. He “richly provides us with everything to enjoy” (1 Timothy 6:17). Responsibility comes with this enjoyment, for we “are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share” (1 Timothy 6:18).

We are enabled to shoulder this responsibility because God Himself has called us to be His stewards. Because God has chosen to work through us, we faithfully respond to His love and grace. Because of God's grace in our lives we are transformed into Christ's likeness. We read in Galatians 2:20, “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ Who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

As followers of Christ we are capable of doing marvelous things because of God's power at work in our lives. God uses us as conduits to share His love and rich supply with others. God not only calls us to His work of stewardship, He sets out the good deeds He wants us to accomplish: “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10).

God's love shines through us as we individually share our blessings with others. We can reflect God's love as we follow His guidance and willingly serve Him with our time, abilities, and money. As the Apostle Paul said, “Therefore, my beloved brothers be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain” (1 Corinthians 15:58). May our love never grow cold and may we never tire of doing God's work.



### Special points of interest:

- Pastor and Carol Martin visit SOP, Feb. 14-15
- Ash Wednesday Worship, Feb. 18, 7pm
- Mid-Week Lent Supper & Service Begin, Feb. 25, 6pm & 7pm



### Inside this issue:

Notes from the Board	2
Volunteers	2
Blessed!	3
Love Story	4
Servant Event	4
Cooks Needed	4
Shepherd's Flock	5
Calendar	6
Link✠ Jr/ Sr Retreat	7

## Notes from the Board



*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself. Luke 10:27*

We're excited about FEBRUARY 1ST! We'll ALL be in one service! The Shepherd of Peace family, needs to re-acquaint themselves, we're one family not two separate groups. 9:00 am worship followed by 10:15 family Bible hour is a great place to start. This decision was not made lightly by the Lay Ministers and Board of Directors. If someone beats you to your 'normal spot', consider it a good way to introduce yourself and share a smile.

After numerous phone calls and emails we've made plans for Pastor Martin and his wife, Carol to visit Shepherd of Peace and the Maumelle area on Feb. 14 & 15. Pastor Martin will be preaching from our pulpit on Sunday morning. Their visit will be short so we'll try to make the most of it. We're making plans for everyone to meet them and will share details as soon as possible. MARK YOUR CALENDAR and be there on FEB. 15 at 9am.

*“Grant that I may not pray alone with the mouth; help me that I may pray from the depths of my heart.”*

-Martin Luther

The board is pleased to report that we have renegotiated the cost of the copy machine with Data Max. Under our new contract, we will be saving \$1700 per year!

We continue to thank Rev. Henning for filling our pulpit and spending time away from his family on Sunday mornings to share God's Word with us and administer the sacraments.

We've been getting good reviews on our new cleaning lady. Rene cleans SOP on Fridays so if something goes in the trash that will create a smell, please remove it from the building. She also cleans for a number of SOP congregation members and they all think highly of her. If you notice an element of cleaning that needs addressed, contact a Director.

Last, but not least, remember 2015=PRAY

Happy Valentine's Day and Peace from our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ to each of you!

*~Your Board of Directors*

## February Volunteers



Lay Minister	Steve McDonald
Acolyte	Evan McDonald
Ushers	Tom Wray & Ronnie Tilley
Lector	Esther Mahnken
Communion Prep	Karen Johnston & Jerri Shertzler
Communion Assistant	Mark Filter

## Blessed!

Blessed! Every one of us is blessed! I'm sure that you will agree. We are blessed to have our spouse, children, a vocation, vehicles, homes, clothes, shoes, food, drink and everything we have! All we have are gifts given to us by God! Being blessed is not something wrought by any ethical or moral behavior in us, but something that is given to us in love by God! We are blessed because of and in Jesus Christ! Outside of God's love in Jesus, we really aren't blessed at all. Being blessed always has God as the Source!

Moses in Genesis writes three times about God blessing His creation. **“And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth.”** (Genesis 1:22) **“And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”** (Genesis 1:28) **“So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because God rested from all His work that He had done in creation.”** (Genesis 2:3)

Moses also writes of the covenant promise God gave to Abraham. **“Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you're a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”** (Genesis 12:1-3) It is through Abraham that God's blessing comes in Jesus!

It also is in worship that God blesses His people, **“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.”** (Numbers 6:24-26)

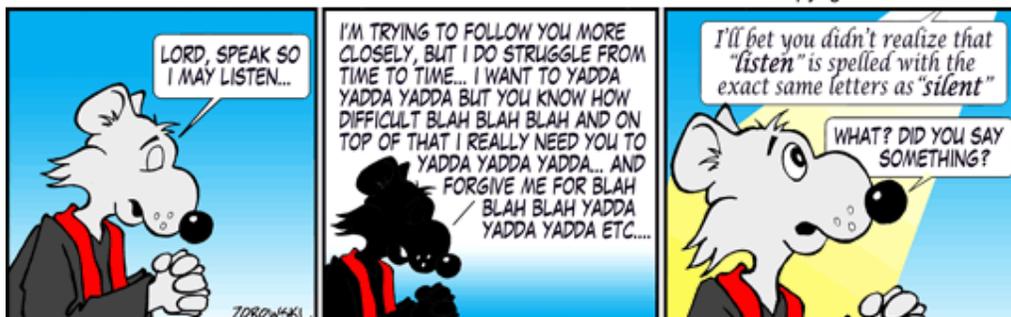
The final blessing comes when we enter eternal life, **“then the King will say to those on His right, “Come, you who are blessed by My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”** (Matthew 25:34)

The Lenten season of the church year begins on Ash Wednesday (February 18<sup>th</sup>). Our focus during Lent will be “Blessed!” We will be looking at the Beatitudes in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. The first word spoken by Jesus in this Sermon is ‘Blessed’! Jesus uses “blessed”, a total of nine times in this sermon, ending with that wonderful imperative, “Rejoice and be glad, for great is your reward in heaven.” (Matthew 5:12) Invite a co-worker or neighbor to join us for worship during Lent and every Sunday to learn of God's richest blessing given to us – His Son – Jesus! ~ Pastor Timothy J. Henning, Vacancy Pastor



## Church Mice

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## Not Just Another Love Story

Named for its main character, the book of Ruth tells of a young Moabite widow who, out of love for her widowed Israelite mother-in-law, abandoned her own culture, declaring, “Your people shall be my people, and your God my God” (1:16).

Destitute and dependent upon the kindness of others, Ruth captured the attention of a close relative of her deceased husband, Boaz, who fulfilled the role of kinsman- redeemer and took Ruth as his wife. The book of Ruth provides us with wonderful examples of kindness, faithfulness, and redemption. Our study of Ruth, beginning Sunday, February 22, will focus on how this narrative highlights how God’s people experience his sovereignty, wisdom, and covenant kindness, even though these experiences are often disguised in difficult circumstances and are mediated through the kindness of others.

## March Servant Event: Puppy (and Kitty) Love

SOP Youth is gearing up for it’s next service project. After having so much fun working with the children of SOP to bring smiles to the faces of the elderly residents of The Lakes, the youth have decided to team up with the SOP kids once again.

The youth would like to invite the SOP kids and adults to join them on Saturday, March 14th at 12:30pm in making treats for the animals at Maumelle’s Animal Shelter. After making some yummy treats, the youth will take them to the shelter and present them to the staff.

A donation box will be located in the Narthex for anyone who would like to donate dog/cat food, leashes, beds, or toys to the animal shelter.



Courtesy of dogclipart.com

*“Therefore, my beloved brothers be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain”*

1 Corinthians 15:58

## Weekly Altar Flowers

The flowers that adorn the altar area each Sunday are donated by members and friends of the congregation in honor of special events in an individual’s life or in remembrance of a loved one. Sometimes they are presented as a thanksgiving for the wonderful blessings from the Lord. Karen Johnston does a lovely job putting together the various arrangements. There are spaces available for flowers for several up coming worship services.

The sign up chart is located on the bulletin board in the church. Please make checks payable to Karen Johnston; all arrangements are \$35.00 and can be taken home after the worship.



## Cooks Needed for Mid-Week Lent Meals

Mid-Week Lenten Suppers and Services begin Wednesday, February 25th. Meals are at 6pm, and worship is at 7pm. We are in need of cooks for the five weeks of Mid-Week Lent suppers. If you (or a group you participate in) would like to prepare one of our meals, please contact Laura Quimby at 501.590.9140 or email her at oketokid@aol.com. We are always thankful for our congregations many chefs!



## Shepherd's Flock (getting to know His sheep): The Flakolls

Michael was born in Ames, IA in September of 1978. He was the first child for his parents. In 1981, he was joined by a new brother, Andrew. The family alternated back and forth between living on the family farm in Forbes, ND and married housing at Iowa State University in Ames where Michael's dad completed his PhD. After graduation, the family moved to Nashville, TN, where Michael's dad was a Doctor of research at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Michael completed high school in Nashville in 1997. Moving back to North Dakota (Fargo this time), he attended Concordia College in Moorhead, MN. He graduated with his Bachelor's Degree in Business in 2001. He then attended UALR to acquire his Master of Business Administration degree in 2002.



Audrey was born in Little Rock, AR in November 1981, joining an older sister and brother (yes she is the baby of the family...explains a lot, huh?) She was quite a surprise as her siblings were 17 and 10 years older than her, but the family was fully complete when she arrived. She was the only child living at home when the family decided to move to East End, AR as she was about to enter Junior High. She attended Sheridan Junior High and High Schools and graduated from Sheridan High School in 2000. She then attended Pulaski Technical College, receiving her Associate of Arts degree, and transferred to UALR where she completed her Bachelor's degree in Psychology with a minor in Human Resources in 2004.



Now for the rest of the story...Michael and Audrey met on the beach in Panama City Beach, FL in 2000. Audrey was there with friends on her senior trip, and Michael was there with friends on an annual beach trip. They began a long distance relationship while he finished college. They talked on the phone every day, which Audrey says was the best thing for their relationship. It taught them how to talk to each other, and to really hear the other person too. Communication is a major key to a happy marriage, after all. In 2001, when Michael finished school at Concordia, he moved to an apartment in Sherwood, AR to pursue the next stage of the courtship. He and Audrey began going on regular dates and quickly got engaged.

They were married in May 2002, with family and friends from all over the United States in attendance. One month before the wedding, they received news that Michael's father, Paul, had cancer. They discussed postponing the wedding, but Paul would not hear of it. Once married, they began to build their life together in a little apartment in Sherwood and shortly after joined Shepherd of Peace in Maumelle. In 2005, they lost Paul to the cancer which left a hole felt every day! In 2006, they bought their first house in Maumelle. Michael works at Ally Financial in Little Rock, and Audrey works for Dr. Michael Ashcraft (an orthodontist) in Little Rock.



In December 2007, they welcomed their first child, a daughter named Elaina. She is currently in 1<sup>st</sup> grade at Crystal Hill Elementary. Oh what joy this child has brought to us and this world! In August 2011, they welcomed their second child, a daughter named Carley. She is currently in the Junior Class of Grace Lutheran Early Childhood Development Center. To this day, she lights up any place she is in! In June 2014, they welcomed their third child, a son named Grady. He is proving to be the best completion of this little family...at least that is Mommy and Daddy's plan. The Flakolls enjoy traveling to see family in lots of different places in the U.S. when everyone's schedule aligns and that is a possibility.

Michael and Audrey have both served in several capacities at Shepherd of Peace. The whole family truly loves Shepherd of Peace and God's flock there. We all strongly believe God has great things in store for us!

# February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship, 9a Bible Hour, 10:15a	2 Quilters, 10a	3 Jr. Conf., 4:30p	4 BoD Meet, 6p Choir, 7p	5 Study, 10:30a Teens, 6p	6	7
8 Worship, 9a Bible Hour, 10:15a	9 Quilters, 10a	10 Jr. Conf., 4:30p	11	12 Study, 10:30a	13 MID WINTER RETREAT (youth)	14 Pastoral Visit
15 Worship, 9a Bible Hour, 10:15a	16 Quilters, 10a	17 Jr. Conf., 4:30p	18 ASH WEDNES. Service, 7p Choir, 8p	19 Study, 10:30a Teens, 6p	20	21
22 Worship, 9a Bible Hour, 10:15a	23 Quilters, 10a	24 Jr. Conf., 4:30p	25 Supper, 6p Service, 7p	26 Study, 10:30a Teens, 6p	27	28 Brkfst, 8:30a

## February Events

- \* Sundays, 9:00am, Worship
- \* Sundays, 10:15am, Family Bible Hour
- \* Mondays, 10am-4pm, Peace Quilters
- \* Tuesdays, 4:30pm, Jr. Confirmation II
- \* Wednesdays, Feb. 4 & 18, Choir Practice
- \* Thursdays, 10:30am, Bible Study
- \* Thursdays, Feb. 5, 19, 26, 6pm, Mid-Week Teens
- \* Wednesday, Feb. 4, 6pm, BoD Meeting
- \* Friday, Feb. 13, 5:30pm– Sunday, Feb. 15, 3:30pm, Jr/Sr Winter Retreat @ Lutheran Camp
- \* Saturday, Feb. 14-15, Pastor & Mrs. Martin Visit
- \* Wednesday, Feb. 18, 7:00pm, Ash Wednesday Service
- \* Wednesday, Feb. 25, 6pm, Mid-Week Lenten Supper
- \* Wednesday, Feb. 25, 7pm, Mid-Week Lenten Worship
- \* Saturday, Feb. 28, 8:30am, Men's Breakfast



## Jr./ Sr. High Mid-Winter Retreat

Seven youth and two adult leaders will be joining 125 other area Lutherans at Lutheran Camp on Petit Jean for LINK<sup>+</sup>, a weekend camping event, February 13th-15th. The camp theme is “LINK<sup>+</sup> IN LOVE: 1 Thessalonians 2:8, *We loved you so much that we were happy to share with you God’s good news. We were also happy to share our lives with you. You have become very special to us.* (NIVR)

In addition to bible study and fellowship opportunities, the campers will also be participating in a Servant Event for Lutheran Camp on Petit Jean. They will also be closing with a Sunday morning worship service with communion.

Please pray for these youth and their leaders as they find comfort, strength, truth, and knowledge together at this mid-winter retreat.



### Martin Luther’s Prayer

Behold, Lord,  
An empty vessel that needs to be filled.  
My Lord, fill it.

I am weak in faith;  
Strengthen thou me.

I am cold in love;  
Warm me and make me fervent  
That my love may go out to my neighbour.

I do not have a strong and firm faith;  
At times I doubt and am unable to trust thee altogether.

O Lord, help me.  
Strengthen my faith and trust in thee.

In thee I have sealed the treasures of all I have.

I am poor;  
Thou art rich and didst come to be merciful to the poor.

I am a sinner;  
Thou art upright.

With me there is an abundance of sin;  
In thee is the fullness of righteousness.

Therefore, I will remain with thee of who I can receive  
But to whom I may not give. Amen.

*Create in me a  
clean heart, O  
God, and renew a  
right spirit within  
me. Psalm 52:10*





## Shepherd of Peace Lutheran Church

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### **The Purpose of Our Existence**

Shepherd of Peace exists to praise and glorify God. This happens when we are faithful in reaching out to others with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, in promoting growth in discipleship, and in performing acts of self-sacrificing love to all people in Christ's name.

#### Sunday Schedule:

Worship 9:00am

Family Bible Hour 10:15am

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## Shepeace.com

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 *There's a Place for  
You at SOP!*

## Special Days in February

- 2-2 Presentation of Our Lord  
Danielle Ausburn (B)  
Lisa Nazzaro (B)
- 2-3 Bob & Mary Kling (A, 62)  
Sarah Wray (B, 11)
- 2-4 Melissa Bishop (B)
- 2-5 Ken Quimby (B)
- 2-7 Jennifer Anderson (B)
- 2-8 Carolyn Leisman (B)
- 2-10 Gene & Veronica Shepherd (A, 23)
- 2-11 Phyllis Christiansen (B)
- 2-14 Valentine's Day
- 2-16 Kelly McDonald (B)
- 2-17 President's Day
- 2-18 Elijah Weigand (B, 2)
- 2-27 Hugh & Carolyn Purnell (A, 34)  
Robert Tschiemer (B)

