

The Shepherd's Voice

Shepherd of Peace Lutheran Church



Where Is our Trust?

Having checking and savings accounts with adequate funds is helpful, but we must always remember that wealth in and of itself does not fulfill us nor provide any lasting value or security. Money can deceive us in subtle ways. Do you find yourself starting the new year worrying about how you'll pay the debts from the past year? Are you contemplating the what-ifs that could become realities this year? Are you thinking that all your worries would vanish if you just had a higher income or won the lottery?

Special points of interest:

- Installation of Officers, Jan. 5th
- Christmas Decoration Removal, Jan. 11
- Baptism of Hudson Miller & Welcoming of New Members, Jan. 12th
- Lutheran Witness Subscription Deadline, Jan. 20th
- Men's Breakfast, Jan. 25th

Maybe you have that rainy day account built up. You've got enough saved to cover your needs for some months to come, yet the nagging fear persists: "Maybe I should have more." Do you then begin to hoard what you've accumulated? Is money what occupies your thoughts?

Perhaps you saw the construction company at your neighbor's house. They're adding on an addition. That would be nice, you think. If he can do it, so can I. I got a raise. I can afford it. It's human nature that, as our incomes grow, so do our wants and desires. We see money as the way to happiness. We think that, when we have money, we have all we need and become self-reliant.

At the start of this new year, consider making the decision, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to live more simply and care more intentionally for others. Consider asking God to teach you to be content, just as the Apostle Paul learned (Philippians 4:11). Ask Him to change your attitude toward money and things. Learn to trust God and His presence. Along with the Apostle Paul we will find that "[our] God will supply every need of [ours] according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). We, too, will experience His promises, comfort, and peace. We, too, will find that God's grace is sufficient for all of our needs and to make us content with what we have. God will grant us the strength not to succumb to the temptation to trust money and possessions as pathways for our happiness. He will grant us the sight to see the pull that our materialistic world has on us as well as the understanding that we will find lasting peace and contentment only in Christ.

Then we truly can have a Happy New Year!

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2014-2015 Shepherd of Peace Church Council & Lay Minister Board

Shepherd of Peace's 2014-2015 Church Council and Lay Ministry Board will be installed Sunday, January 5th during both the 8:00am and 10:30am services. We pray these members will be guided with faith filled hearts as they conduct the business and spiritual matters of Shepherd of Peace. They can not serve their boards alone. They need members committed to helping them with all the time and talents they have. God has blessed us all with a multitude of talents. Consider using your talents and time by serving your church in one of these boards.

Church Council

Executive Director: Marc Higgins
 Lay Minister Representative: Pete Christiansen
 Secretary: Kelly McDonald
 Financial Secretary: Veronica Shepherd
 Treasurer: Carol Smith
 Director of Stewardship: Jeremy Ausburn
 Director of Education: Jerri Shertzer
 Director of Church Growth: Ben Weigand
 Director of Mission: John Nazzaro
 Director of Property: Chuck Fandrei

Lay Ministers

Marc Higgins
 Pete Christiansen
 Tony Wray
 Parrish Hurley
 Mark Filter
 Steve McDonald

Notes from Education

We all need to give a big thanks to Clarice and Veronica for their many hours spent on giving our children an opportunity to present the Christmas story to our congregation. Lots of others also helped, including our very exceptional Confirmation class and Youth. These kids are growing up to be so responsible - good job kids and parents!

We will have regular Sunday School December 29th and into January. All teachers will be on deck and ready to hear all the wonderful things Santa brought. Hope to see you all the 29th.



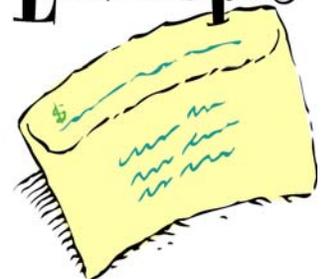
2014 Offering Envelopes

The 2014 offering envelopes can be found on the table in the Narthex. If you do not have envelopes assigned to you, but would like some, please speak with Carol Smith or Jeremy Ausburn. Please note your new envelope number will most likely differ from 2013.

Some of the envelopes worth noting are the Lutheran Witness envelope and the Designated Offering envelopes. The Lutheran Witness is a monthly synodical magazine. If you are interested in a subscription (or renewal), simply place \$14.00 in your Lutheran Witness envelope and give it to an usher or Dani prior to Jan 19th.

The acting treasurer wanted to make everyone aware that the Designated Offering envelope is a great place to put your Ablaze mission offering! There are several of these envelopes distributed throughout the year.

Offering Envelopes

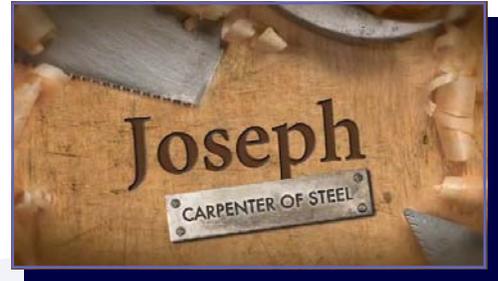


Men's Breakfast Group begins New Study

The Men's Breakfast Group begins a new program on January 25th at 8:30am, *Joseph: Carpenter of Steel*.

"He lived his life in obscurity, working hard to support his family and do his part in his community. He may not have worked with steel, but as we will see, Joseph was a carpenter with character, courage, and strength of steel." (LHM Network)

Join us in the name of the Lord.



Parish Grounds

It's official! The voters of Shepherd of Peace have voted Chuck Fandrei as the new chair of the property board for the 2014 - 2016 service cycle. We of the board are super excited to have Chuck lead and co-ordinate the efforts of property for the next couple/few years and would ask everyone to continue to support our efforts with your time, your talents, and your treasures as many of you have done historically.

As I'm sure you know, volunteering to maintain the property is a uniquely rewarding experience. In few other capacities can you receive such a direct and demonstrable reward. I urge each and every one of you to consider how you can best steward the resources with which the Lord has blessed you.

Whether it be stopping by and righting a letter on the sign that has been blown askew, or taking a moment to wipe up a coffee spill no one else has noticed, there is always something you can do to help us maintain the house of God, which he has entrusted to us.

Blessings,
Jeremy

Peace Quilters



If you are interested in quilting or other fabric crafts and would like to stitch in fellowship with other crafters, grab your stitching and your lunch and join the

Peace Quilters every Monday beginning at 10:00am.

Bunko Babes

The Bunko Babes are in need of two permanent members.

These ladies meet once a month at a member's home or in the church fellowship hall.

Cost is \$7 a month. Please contact Beth Helmstetter at 851-8370.



A New Year - New Opportunities

Each new day brings promise of a new start. For many, the start of a new week is the time to begin that diet, get serious about exercising, or forego TV viewing. For a vast majority, though, there's something especially motivating and invigorating about seeing the JANUARY calendar on the wall. This is the year we'll accomplish great things.

God doesn't necessarily call us to do great things, however. He asks that we be trustworthy in small things (Luke 16:10-11). To that end He gives us gifts to use to build up the Body of Christ and to reach out to those outside His voice.

Some of us have many gifts. People like Michelangelo – painter, sculptor, and poet – and Thomas Jefferson – architect, statesman, and scientific farmer – come to mind. God, the Giver of gifts, knows that the number of gifts each of us has varies. Jesus told the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30) pointing up this fact and teaching us that success lies in using what we've been given, not in having the greatest amount.

Our gifts also differ in degree. There are many sculptors but few, if any, compare to Michelangelo. Yet their art can bring satisfaction and inspiration to others. You may not be able to sing opera, but you can sing God's praises. You may not be a great orator, but you can witness to the love and grace of God in Christ. You may not be a mechanic, but you can provide transportation for someone needing to get to an appointment or to church.

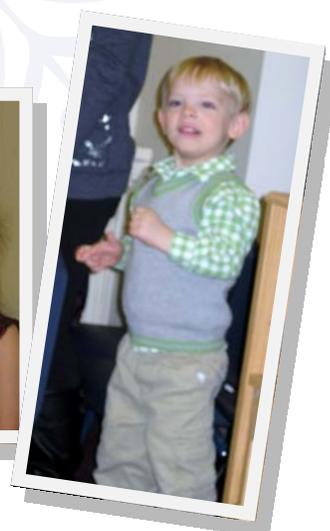
That's why God gives us gifts and abilities – that we may be equipped to serve others. The start of a new year offers us an opportune time to assess those gifts and see how we can use them for God's glory and the good of His people. The motivation to do this comes from the same One Who gave the gifts! Just as He was motivated by love for us to give us, not just our gifts, but His greatest gift, His Son, so we are motivated by love for Him to serve those He calls us to serve.



Thank You!

The staff of Shepherd of Peace thanks you very much for the monetary gifts and yummy treats given to us this year. Your love and caring make this a wonderful place not only to work, but to be a part of in worship and sharing God's word. We appreciate the opportunity to share in the work this congregation is doing for the community of Maumelle and the community of Christ.

Love in Christ!



Shepherd's Flock (Getting to know His sheep): The Shepherd Family

Gene and Veronica grew up in different parts of Colorado, but both decided to attend Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. Since there were only eight students from Colorado at that time, one of their professors thought that they should meet -- and the rest is history.



Gene had worked as an electronics technician for many years before graduating from Concordia, but has worked as an actuary (true math geek) first in Oklahoma, and now with Arkansas Blue Cross in Little Rock. His specialty is developing pricing systems for insurance products. In Oklahoma he developed a disability pricing system used in providing coverage to over 300,000 school employees and over 200,000 small business employees. He was brought here ten years ago to rewrite the medical pricing system, used in covering over 400,000 Arkansans. He still dabbles in electronics as a hobby. Gene also loves movies.

Veronica studied to be an English and Science teacher, and is qualified as such, but while in Oklahoma she worked as a lab chemist and scientist for a biochemical firm. She now is a problem management specialist with American Red Cross in Little Rock (finding solutions to various problems). She is a master of many trades, with majors and minors in Chemistry, English, Physics, Mathematics, and Computer Science. In her spare time, what little there is, she loves to cook, bake, cross-stitch and crochet. But her favorite job is being a mom.

Sarah attends Horace Mann middle school in Little Rock, where she is in eighth grade. Her archery team has twice gone to nationals, and hopefully will again this year. Her science club entered the BEST robotic competition sponsored by UALR and took rookie team and semi-finalist awards. Sarah provided key design advice, and programmed the robot. She has also taken up piano. She has expressed an interest in attending Concordia in Moorhead when she gets there.



When not working, the family loves to travel. Locally they are always ready to go find waterfalls. For vacation we visit National Parks, Monuments, etc. and enjoy them immensely. We take the non-strenuous hikes. Anytime we're out at these sites, you'll see us all with cameras. Veronica's goal is to visit all of the national parks and monuments.

Having attended various Lutheran churches in Colorado, Minnesota, Oklahoma, and Arkansas, Shepherd of Peace "... has the friendliest congregation we've ever met."

Happy New Year!

~ Gene, Veronica, & Sarah

January Volunteers

	8:00	10:30
Lay Minister	Parrish Hurley	Tony Wray
Acolyte	Sarah Shepherd	Alec Bishop
Ushers	C. Fandrei & L. Johnston	J. Hudson & J. Smith
Comm. Prep	Mahnken & Wheat	Flakoll
Comm. Assist	Mark Filter	Michael Flakoll



Shepherd's Care Mothers' Day Out



December at preschool was spent “waiting for Jesus’ birthday.” We heard the story beginning with Mary being visited by an angel, through the trip to Bethlehem, and ending with the stable birth, the singing angels, and the surprised shepherds. We counted the days in Advent as we hung an ornament for each day on our Advent tree at school. We played the story when we dressed up and walked through all the events leading up to the birth of our Savior. Many of the children knew the story so well they could supply their own dialog on our party day. We made stable crafts, gifts for our parents, and even created some of our own snacks. The day the angel came to Mary, we made cheese angels, and we had fun one day making reindeer to eat.

We continue working with new letters and learning that letters have a *name* and make a certain *sound*. We’ve added Kk to our letter wall. Our sensory table has been filled with lids during December, and we found all kinds of ways to sort them. The costume box made an appearance this month so we have had princesses and super heroes participate in free play quite often. In math we continued to work with repeated patterns on the calendar each day. We also worked on number formation, recognition, and matching like items as we played the 12 Days of Christmas match.

In music we sang songs that fit with the different parts of the Christmas story. We sang when “An Angel Came to Mary”, and also when the baby was born “Away in a Manger.” When the shepherds were surprised by the angels we sang “we are a-shakin in the field” and “Glooooooria in ‘egg shellses’ Deo.” Finally we celebrated the Savior’s birth by singing “Happy Birthday we sing to Jesus our King” and playing our jingle bells to share the joyous “Christmas News.”

We had a great Christmas party where we spent a good part of the day dressing up and playing the nativity story. Thanks to all the parents for providing a wonderful lunch and even a birthday cake for Jesus. Have a wonderful holiday. See you on January 7th.



The Nativity As Told by Mothers' Day Out



Angels tell Mary good news.



The king orders all men to be counted



Mary & Joseph head to Bethlehem.



Mary & Joseph settle in to the stable.



The Baby is born!



Shepherd's watch their sheep.



Suddenly an angel appears in the sky...



...singing Glory to God!



The shepherd hurry the manger.



The angels worship the King.



Our Savior is born.



We come to worship Him.

Shepherd of Peace Lutheran Church

There's a place for you at SOP!



449 Millwood Circle
PO Box 13143
Maumelle, Arkansas 72113

Phone: 501-851-4546
E-mail: shepeace@sbcglobal.net

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 10:00am-2:30pm

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:

8:00 AM - Traditional Worship

9:15 AM - Family Bible Hour

10:30 AM - Blended Worship

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Special Days in January

- | | | | |
|------|---|------|---|
| 1-3 | Emily Cardinal (B, 7)
Nick Greb (B)
Leroy & Esther Mahnken (A, 38) | 1-13 | Emily Tschiemer (B, 15) |
| 1-4 | Joe & Pat Wheat (A, 34) | 1-18 | The Confession of St. Peter |
| 1-6 | Epiphany of our Lord
Evelyn Wilbern (B) | 1-20 | Sloane Smith (B, 4) |
| 1-7 | Felix & Gloria Cates (A, 31)
Mark & Sharon Hillemann (A, 46)
John Nazzaro (B) | 1-21 | Sophia Greb (B, 5)
Ron & Jerri Shertzer (A, 25)
Rick Sutherland (B) |
| 1-10 | Mari Flemmons (B)
Matt Nazzaro (B) | 1-23 | Arlene Behmer (B)
Erik Sutherland (B) |
| 1-12 | The Baptism of our Lord | 1-25 | The Conversion of St. Paul
Gloria Cates (B) |



January 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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