



The Shepherd's Voice



Shepherd of Peace Lutheran Church

A Drop in the Bucket

Jesus once remarked, "You will always have the poor among you" (John 12:8). Those words, taken out of context, may lead us to think that our efforts to alleviate the problems the needy face are fruitless. The task, after all, is endless.

Jesus also commented, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few" (Matthew 9:37). The work is overwhelming! How can so few of us reach so many lost? And how can one congregation meet the needs and temperaments of such diverse people? The prospect is so daunting; it's enough to make us give up altogether.

And where's the money supposed to come from for all these ministries? My small offering is only a drop in the bucket. The same can be said for my abilities. The gifts I have to offer are only a drop in the bucket compared to what is needed. And my time is already stretched as far as it can go. The hour or two I can spare each week for the work of the church is only a drop in the bucket in light of the time needed to fulfill our goals.

God would not want us to be discouraged. He would not want us to give up and quit. He knows the enormity of the task He's given us, but He also sees that what He has give us collectively as members of the Body of Christ is sufficient for the undertaking. He asks only that we cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:7) and regularly return to Him a "sum of money in keeping with [our] income" (1 Corinthians 16:2). He promises, "You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God" (2 Corinthians 9:11).

Speaking of workers, Jesus returned to Heaven leaving the entire work of evangelizing in the hands of eleven disciples. Was He worried? I think not! For He did not leave them alone. Nor are we! "Now I am going," He said, but "It is for your good [because] unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you" (John 16:5, 7). The Holy Spirit is doing the work after all. He's the One instilling faith in hearers of the Word. He's the One encouraging us not to "become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9).

Do not be deterred by the erroneous belief that your efforts are not significant. Remember that a raging flood is nothing but the collection of many raindrops. No single drop of water is less important than another. God takes all our hours, all our gifts, and all our offerings, both small and large, and uses them and blesses them to fill that bucket, perhaps even to create a flood!



February 2014

Volume 25, Issue 2

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Special points of interest:

- Volunteers are needed to help with Sunday Worship. Please fill out the survey in Sunday's bulletin
- Join our prayer group this month, Thursdays 9:30am in the conference room!
- Send ideas for news articles to: shepeace@sbcglobal.net

Acolyte Training

There will be an opportunity to get more of our youth, grades 5-7, involved in serving as acolytes during our worship at Shepherd of Peace! Acolyte training will be held on Sunday, February 16 at 9:20 a.m., meeting in the back of the sanctuary near the Sacristy. Mark Filter and Rev. Henning will be leading the training. This is a wonderful opportunity for our youth to serve their Lord in worship. We are asking all youth to plan to be at the training on February 16. Parents are welcome to come also. If you have questions, please visit with Rev. Henning, Mark Filter or Marc Higgins.



SUPER BOWL PARTY

Shepherd of Peace Fellowship Hall

Feb. 2nd @ 6:00pm

Bring an appetizer and join the fun!

(pizza & wings will be provided.)

Contact the church office to let us know you'll be there!



Stewardship is Heart Work

Jesus teaches we are lights in a world of darkness. Spiritual darkness surrounds us in our daily life. The new life in Christ we have been given is to share with everyone, even those we don't necessarily want to share it with. Jesus didn't say "...make disciple of all nations, except those that annoy you...". Instead he calls us to "...make disciples of all nations in the name of the Father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit..." [Matthew 28:19].

That is what Christian stewardship is all about. Christian stewards manage their money with the constant thought of how to promote God's purposes. Wise Christian stewards manage all aspects of their life with the constant thought of how to promote God's purposes!

We may begin to feel stewardship as something we are commanded to do. We can feel obligated to give of ourselves to our church, our community, or to individuals in order to be true followers of Jesus. This is simply not true. "...by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your doing, it is the gift of God, not a result of works..." [Ephesians 2:8-9].

Rather, when we give freely and joyously of our time, our talents, and our treasures to Christian ministry, it is pleasing to the Lord. "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]

The short of it is this. We as caretakers of the gifts given to us by God himself, should always strive to invest those gifts as God sees fit. This is explicitly taught in the words of our Lord when he said, "...seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you" [Matthew 6:33]



Parish Grounds



The Property Board met for the first time in 2014 with a full plate of wants and needs. Priorities for this year at this time are the Upgrade of the Information Technologies system for the church, replacing the parking lot lighting with better and more efficient LED fixtures, and making the Altar area changes to incorporate the original



cross that has been refinished to match the pulpit, lectern, and altar and add lighting. We are not ignoring the dead tree problem and have had an expert tell us that the pine next to entrance road is not in danger of coming down soon. Property is being good stewards with resources available in our plans for 2014 and will be happy to accept special funding to cover all needs.

~ Chuck Fandrei, Property Chair

Meet Our Vacancy Pastor and His Family

We are happy to have Rev. Timothy Henning serve us as vacancy pastor through the end of May. Pastor Henning, his wife Janet and their three children, Christopher 14, Angel 12, and Dawn 10 live in Russellville. They are members of St. John's Lutheran Church in Russellville. Before moving to Russellville five years ago, Pastor Henning had previously served parishes in Kentucky and Kansas.

Currently Pastor Henning works full time with Tyson Foods in Dardenelle, Arkansas. Pastor Henning graduated from Concordia College, Seward, Nebraska and from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, being ordained in June of 1999. He is a Life Member of the VFW, serving in the Persian Gulf War in 1991. He served for eight years in the Army (active duty and reserves) as a Chaplain's Assistant. In his free time, he likes fishing with his family, gardening, reading and coin collecting.

Janet is a busy housewife. She graduated from Arkansas Tech University with a degree in Elementary Education. She has taught in various Kindergarten and preschool programs in Texas and Kentucky. She serves on the Board of Christian Education at St. John's and has helped with VBS. She also enjoys being a part of the LWML and playing in the handbell choir. She likes playing board games, walking and visiting with family who live in the area.

Christopher is in 8th grade and enjoys playing the trombone in Junior High Band. Angel is in 7th grade and a very good clarinet player. Dawn is in the 5th grade and she is talking about playing the flute in band. All three enjoy being in the youth group at St. John's.

Together as a family, the Henning's like to go on family vacations, camping, and fishing. They like going to the Buffalo River during the summer! The Henning's also have a cat – Tigger, and a dog – Bentley!



Please welcome them and introduce yourselves to them! We thank them for being in our midst!

For a Purpose



I've been wondering lately what it means to be a member of Shepherd of Peace or even a member of the Christian community in general. What is the purpose of our church—the Church—and what role do I play in it?

God empowers us with individual gifts of varying degrees. Paul spends an entire segment of his letter to the Corinthians addressing this. *“As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.”*(1 Corn. 12:20) One body made of individual parts, working together for a purpose.

But, what is that purpose?

A few weeks ago as I was preparing to lead a study of Exodus Chapter 17, answers began to surface for me.

In previous studies we had learned how God had used Moses to lead the people, Aaron's voice to talk to Pharaoh, Moses' staff (the staff of God) to part the sea, and a log to sweeten bitter water— parts and pieces used to provide for His people, seemingly random things to show His glory.

But in Chapter 17, God did things a little differently. Joshua was directed to gather a group of men to fight the Amalekites, while Moses was told to stand at the top of the mountain and hold up the staff of God. *“Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed, and when he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands grew weary...”* (Exodus 17:11-12a) Moses lacked the strength to do it himself. He couldn't hold up his hands and the staff all day long; yet each time his strength failed, the Israelites failed.



I know that feeling...

But this where it gets interesting. Aaron and Hur came to Moses' aid. The two men held Moses' hands up for him, *“...so his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. And Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the sword.”* (Exodus 17:12c-13) God used all of these men, together, toward His victory. Though on their own, each individual was too weak to complete the task, when working together for God's purpose, they were victorious. God used individuals *together* to defeat the enemy and spread His Word.

So, I started thinking...

Christ came and rescued me from sin, death, and the devil. I know this because He used His church to tell me. Through His people, I heard and saw His message. The Holy Spirit guided me, because God used individuals together, doing their part to show me that the battle is won. I am forgiven. My soul is His. That's my purpose too, to spread His message, but he doesn't expect me to do it alone. The good news is none of us have to do it alone.



It's our purpose together.

“But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them as he chose...As it is, there are many parts, yet one body... If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one is honored, all rejoice together.” (1Corinthians 12:18, 26)

We are together for a purpose—to work as the body.

We are here to hold each other up and do our part—together—to tell everyone in Maumelle and anywhere else He sends us, that the battle is won, because of His glory.

With you in Christ.

Dani :)

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

This is how the fairytale story begins. Donald (Prince Charming) rescues Evelyn (the Princess), they have two daughters, four grandkids and they live happily ever after. Ok, here's some more details.

Donald grew up in the Oak Grove Community where he was a confirmed member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Parkhill. He met Evelyn, a Baptist girl, married her and turned her into a faithful Lutheran too. They were the first couple to be married at Trinity Lutheran in 1957 and were members there until February 1995 when they transferred to Shepherd of Peace. They had two daughters. Carol Soulsby who works for the Little Rock School District as a Psychologist Examiner and Teresa Whitley who works for Jason's Deli as a catering director. They have four grandchildren. Nicole Soulsby and Alexis Whitley who are juniors at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. Brett Whitley is a junior at Catholic High and Collin Soulsby is a junior at Episcopal Collegiate.

Donald built their dream home in 1975 where Evelyn still resides. The family typically gets together every Sunday for lunch where the quiet walls of the house come to life with laughter. Evelyn has experienced some life changes in the last few years. However, her faith remains solid. She confesses, that the Lord never said we would have all good days, but He did say that he would be there every step of the way. If she could sum up one word to describe her life, it would be "blessed."

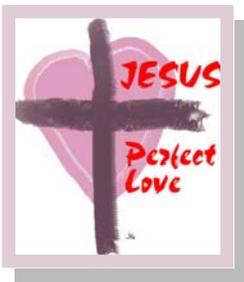


"I Love You!", This Much!" ...from the Vacancy Pastor

The month of February is filled with Light during the season of Epiphany, during which God reveals to the world, His Son – JESUS, the Light of the World! St. John writes, *"In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."* (John 1:4-5;14) It is in Word, Water, Bread and Wine, that Jesus shines His light and His love into our hearts and lives. In gathering for Divine Worship and being a part of Sunday School and Bible Class, our faith in Christ is strengthened and with the help of the Holy Spirit we are able to share the light and love of Jesus with our neighbors, co-workers, and friends. We grow to love one another in Christ because He first loved us!

Valentine's Day is February 14th! It is a special day to say "I love you!", to that special someone in our lives, our children or our grandchildren! It is God who says to the world, "I love you!", in the sending of His Son Jesus, who saves His people from their sin! *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him might not perish, but have everlasting life."* (John 3:16) How much does God love you? A Christian T-shirt depicts Jesus hanging on the cross with His nailed outstretched arms and hands, saying, "This much." Jesus loves you so much that He willingly gave His life for you by taking upon Himself the sin of the world and dying, so that we might be forgiven and live forever with Him! It is my prayer that each one of us would trust in Jesus more and more so that His love and His light would dwell in our hearts and shine forth in our communities, in our world, through our vocations so that others might hear those precious words, *"I love you! This much!"*

Rev. Timothy J. Henning
Ephesians 2:8-9



Men's Breakfast Studies Baseball and Spiritual Leadership



Home Run King, a LHM Men's Network bible study written by Rev. Tim Radkey, is an exciting study that aims to weave two passions into one. The first is a passion for the game of baseball—America's time honored pastime. The second is a passion for growing into the husband, father, and spiritual leader God has called us to be.



The purpose of this study is to give you the opportunity to discuss your various roles with other men, enjoy some baseball moments, relive your younger years, and prepare you to rejoice in the forgiveness and fresh start God gives you in Christ each and every day. The church and family are in desperate need of faithful and dedicated men who are willing to step up to the proverbial plate and grow into the leaders God has fashioned them to be—even as they serve their families and promote the work of His Kingdom.

Join the discussion and share in the food and fellowship Saturday, February 22nd beginning at 8:30am at February's Men's Breakfast.

(Source: LHM Men's Network, www.lhm.org)

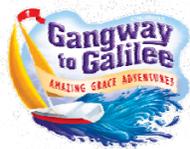
Notes from the Education Committee

The Education Committee would like to thank our Sunday School teachers for the winter term. The 2's and 3's class is being taught by Barbara Tilley and Ladye Hurley. Chuck Fandrei is taking care of the lower elementary kids. Kara Weigand and Tracy Wray are teaching the middle elementary children. Veronica Shepherd and Jerri Shertzer are taking the Confirmation age group, and Dani has the youth. And of course, Rev. Henning is dealing with the adults. We will have new materials again the beginning of March.



The Sunday School children and young people will be singing the first Sunday in February during the second service. They are practicing before Sunday School every Sunday.

Mid-week Teens (our mid-week youth group) have been focusing on what it means to have spiritual gifts, and what God wants us to do with them. They are identifying their own gifts and exploring how those gifts can be used in Shepherd of Peace and in their other communities and groups.



The Education Committee has started looking at VBS preview materials. It looks like Concordia has a boat theme this year. The decoration ideas look like a lot of fun to prepare. Stay tuned for more on this. Start thinking about your summer, and if you discover any VBS date issues, please let us know.



IT'S A BOY!

Join us for the baby shower for Megan Tschiemer
Sunday, February 9th at 12:00pm
(following the 10:30am service)



Shepherd's Care Mothers' Day Out



Bible stories began in January with the wise men who studied the stars to find the way to the new king. We dressed up as magi and went to worship King Jesus. We also brought Him our treasures. Then we travelled with Mary and Joseph to the temple where we discovered we left the twelve year old Jesus discussing scriptures with His teachers. After that, we heard how Mary chose the best thing when she listened to Jesus. Martha even came to school one day to tell us about that time when she



was rather upset with her sister. The last story this month was when Jesus stilled the storm and we all decided that "Ya Gotta Have Jesus in Your Boat." All these stories became real for the children as they acted out the story and supplied dialogue for the characters. We sang songs as well to remind us that "God is Good. All the Time" and "He's the King of the Universe." Thanks to some of our songs, we even know how to spell the words "B-i-b-l-e" and "J-e-s-u-s."



We added some new things for the new year. We had "SNOW" in our sensory table this month, and we plowed roads through the sparkly stuff with our trucks. Sometimes we ended up looking like snowmen ourselves as we played in the sticky stuff. We also made gingerbread men to go with stories we read. We learned to compare different versions of the same story and spent some time predicting what we thought would happen. Those tricky gingerbread men cookies thought they could run away from us when they escaped from the oven, but we were trickier when we searched for and found them in the nap room. Then we ate them for snack. We've begun answering the roll each day using our **last** names and learned that a "mister" is a boy and a "miss" is a girl. We added Vv to our letter wall and worked on counting and identifying numbers.



Colder and rainier days have forced recess to be in the nap room on occasion this month, but that allowed us to practice gross motor skills on bikes and learn about taking turns and following rules in games. It has also brought out the cutest hats ever to keep our ears nice and warm.

February will bring the Valentines' party on Feb. 13th and a Dr. Seuss celebration the end of the month. Members of SOP are always invited to come help read to the children or even help with the party fun!



*Shepherd of Peace Lutheran
Church*

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Maumelle, Arkansas 72113

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

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



There's a place for you at SOP!

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

Shepeace.com

Special Days in February



- 2-1 Payton Cates (B, 14)
- 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)

February 2014

Shepherd of Peace Lutheran Church

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

January						
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

March						
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

						1
2 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Family Bible Hour 10:30 AM Worship 5:30 PM Super Bowl Party	3 10:00 AM Quilters	4 9:05 AM - 2:00 PM MDO 4:30 PM Confirmation Class	5 7:00 PM Choir Practice	6 9:05 AM - 2:00 PM MDO 9:30 AM Prayer Group 10:30 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Mid-Week Teens 7:00 PM Church Growth	7	8
9 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Family Bible Hour 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM Baby Shower	10 10:00 AM Quilters 6:30 PM Property Board	11 9:05 AM - 2:00 PM MDO 4:30 PM Confirmation Class Worship Committee	12	13 9:05 AM - 2:00 PM MDO 9:30 AM Prayer Group 10:30 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Mid-Week Teens 7:00 PM Lay Ministers	14	15
16 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Family Bible Hour 9:20 AM Acolyte Training 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM Church Council	17 10:00 AM Quilters	18 9:05 AM - 2:00 PM MDO 4:30 PM Confirmation Class	19 7:00 PM Choir Practice	20 9:05 AM - 2:00 PM MDO 9:30 AM Prayer Group 10:30 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Mid-Week Teens	21	22 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast
23 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Family Bible Hour 10:30 AM Worship	24 10:00 AM Quilters	25 9:05 AM - 2:00 PM MDO 4:30 PM Confirmation Class	26	27 9:05 AM - 2:00 PM MDO 9:30 AM Prayer Group 10:30 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Mid-Week Teens	28	