

The Shepherd's Voice

Shepherd of Peace Lutheran Church

By God's Grace

I Corinthians 15 is known as the Resurrection *Chapter*. Paul writes in verses 3-4: "*For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures...*" Are these words new to you? Hardly. You've heard this message every Easter and probably several Sundays in between. As Paul says, it's the message of first importance. Unless Christ has died for our sins and unless He is risen from the dead, we have nothing on which to base our faith. Only the Christian religion has a God, Who out of love for us, has come down to be among His people in order to live the perfect life in our places and to pay the price for our failure to meet the mark.

Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Paul teaches us many things. His epistles are full of information, exhortation, encouragement, and edification. But he says that this message of what Christ has done for us in the one of first importance. As he writes in verse 14, "*And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.*"

Paul says, "*For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received.*" Paul, like our Lord, no longer walks this earth, spreading this message. Of course, Paul passed on this message in written as well as in verbal form. We have God's Word and are privileged to read and study it whenever we want. Many people don't, however. Many don't even know that the Bible is Truth.

That's where we come in. We now walk the earth. Jesus said, "*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth*" (Acts 1:8). As recipients of that power, we are enabled to be His witnesses. We now have the task of passing on what we've received, the beautiful Gospel message that Christ died for our sins and was raised again that we, too, may have eternal life. God grant that we might be eager stewards of His Gospel.



Special points of interest:

- Mid-Week Lenten Supper & Service, Wednesday April 2nd & 9th, 6pm & 7pm
- Coupon Katina, SOP Fellowship Hall, April 3rd, 6pm
- Maundy Thursday Worship, April 17th, 7pm
- Good Friday Worship, April 18th, 7pm
- Easter Pastry Potluck, April 20th, 9:20am
- Confirmand Questioning, April 27th, 10:30am service
- Shepherd of Peace celebrates her 23rd anniversary on April 28th!

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Easter Lilies

The Easter Lily Sign-up sheet is now available on the bulletin board for anyone who would like to purchase lilies for our Easter service. Cost is \$10.00. Make checks payable to Karen Johnston.

Maumelle Relay for Life

Shepherd of Peace's Relay for Life Team is hosting a Maumelle area Parking Lot Sale on Saturday, May 3rd from 7:00am-1:00pm. This is a great opportunity to sell some of the gently used items you cleaned out of your home during spring cleaning. It is also a chance to find that "something" you've been looking for. More than that, it is a way to support SOP's team and the fight against cancer!

Limited spaces are available to rent. The cost to reserve a parking lot space is \$20; we are also renting tables (\$5 each) and chairs (\$2 each). Registration forms are located in the church Narthex. Be sure to make all checks payable to *American Cancer Society* (please add *Maumelle Relay for Life* in the memo place of your check).

We still need members and friends of SOP to sign-up to be part of our team! You can register at www.relayforlife.org, just let the prompts guide you to Maumelle Relay for Life Shepherd of Peace. Opportunities are also available to honor loved ones or celebrate being a survivor. Details are available at the Relay Table in the church Narthex.



Parish Grounds

It is springtime! Time for us as a church family to fellowship together and celebrate our Savior's passion. We have a cleanup for Saturday, April 5th from 8am until 1pm. We need helpers for interior and exterior work and any and all volunteers will be appreciated. We plan on planting and mulching all over the property. We will also be cleaning the windows, inside and out and cleaning and polishing furniture on the inside of our buildings. All intended to honor our Lord here at SOP, your church. We need wheelbarrows, rakes and shovels and lots of energy. We will also have a crew repairing the parking lot lighting at this same time. Join the fun and spend time with your church family. We will have coffee, juice and doughnuts for breakfast and pizza after we quit for the day.



HOLY WEEK



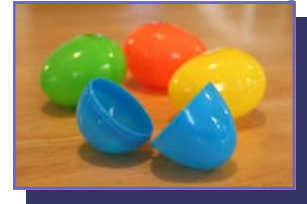
WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 13	Palm Sunday*	8 am & 10:30 am
April 17	Maundy Thursday	7 pm
April 18	Good Friday	7 pm
April 20	Easter Worship*	8 am
	Breakfast and Egg Hunt	9:15 am & 10:00am
	Easter Worship	10:30 am

**service will begin outside and process into sanctuary*

A Plastic Egg, a Piñata, & an Empty Tomb

When my kids were young, they loved *Resurrection Eggs*. They would dig through the box of Easter stuff to find the dark purple carton filled with plastic eggs. Each egg uncovered a part of the account of Easter: a nail, a coin, a piece of cloth, all small reminders of the biblical telling. But my kids never spent much time on the trinkets; their favorite egg was the empty one. That egg was placed in the dozen to remind the children of the empty tomb, Christ's defeat over death for us all. They would open it, smile, and show it to me gleaming with excitement, "Mom, it's empty!" Imagine that! Finding comfort and joy in something empty. Empty.



Life leaves me feeling empty much of the time.

Each day I start out eager; ready to tackle all the stuff that I know will come at me. I start so full, so strong. A sturdy, new piñata filled up and ready to go—God's girl with an action plan. It doesn't take long before the party is over, though, and I am swaying in the wind, beaten by life, covered in holes, and hollowed out. Empty.



I wonder if that is how the Marys felt when the Sabbath had passed after Jesus' death. Their rabbi had died. They had seen all that had gone on in the days before; watched in horror as the brutal events unfolded; stood there, helpless, as Jesus breathed his final breath on the cross. They had seen his lifeless body placed into the cold tomb.

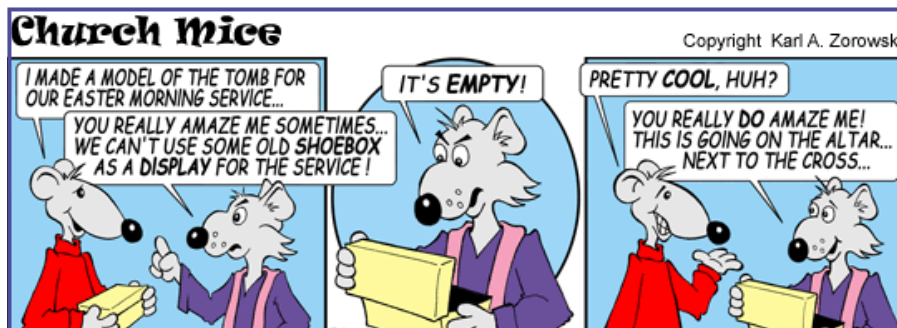
The Marys woke up early the morning after Sabbath filled with grief and gathered what they needed to get through the task that lay ahead. "[they] bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him." *Mark 16:1* I can imagine the deep sorrow as they walked toward the tomb that morning, choking back tears, but determined to honor their cherished rabbi with this final act of love, wondering out loud, "Who will roll away the stone from the entrance of the tomb?" *Mark 16:3*. They were women with a plan.



I suspect they felt a hollowness inside as "they saw that that the stone had been rolled back..." *Mark 16:4*. Imagine the desolation they felt as they walked into the tomb. Their teacher was gone; their plan thwarted. The tomb was empty. Empty.

"And he [an angel of the Lord] said to them, 'Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen; he is not here.' " *Mark 16:6*. God uses the empty places for something much bigger. God filled the empty tomb with glorious news—good news that was far greater than any before: Christ is risen!

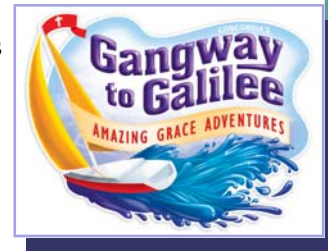
The next time we catch ourselves swaying and hollowed out from thwarted plans and hard hits, maybe we shouldn't feel despair, but instead remember the empty plastic egg, knowing that God fills the empty with far bigger things than we could ever imagine. He is risen! ~With you in Christ, Dani :)





Notes from Education

Gangway to Galilee 2014 VBS The Education Board has tentatively set VBS dates for July 20 – July 24. Please look at your calendars, and let us know if you see any major problem with those dates. We decided to use the Concordia curriculum (Gangway to Galilee) this year. Please consider volunteering for VBS this year. It is a rewarding experience for everyone.



Shepherd's Care Mother's Day Out We have passed the first step in receiving the LWML grant for replacing the carpet with tile in the children's classrooms. Esther Mahnken has agreed to present our request at the LWML conference in July. Thank you, Esther.



Gideon Life Book Saturation Project The Board has decided to have our young people who are interested participate in this project. This project involves our teens/youth giving FREE Life Books to their classmates and "watching God do His thing through His Word". "The Life Book contains a short recap of the Old Testament, the entire Gospel of John, and scriptural answers to issues teens face. Throughout the Life Book there are interactive handwritten reactions from five characters including an adult youth leader, and four teenagers ranging from an agnostic to a strong believer." For more information, see the Gideon website.

Easter Joy! ...from the vacancy pastor



"Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, as He said. Come, see the place where He lay. Then go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead, and behold, He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him." (Matthew 28:5-7)

He's Risen!

The news of Jesus being alive again was I am sure both frightening and comforting, for the women who went to the tomb early that first Easter and for His disciples. They didn't fully understand everything yet, however, they came to the realization that Jesus who was crucified on a cross, His body taken down and laid in the tomb, was alive again! Christ is Risen! He is Risen, indeed! Alleluia! For you and I and all Christianity today, our sure and eternal hope rests on the resurrection of Jesus! Jesus Himself says, **"Because I live, you also will live."** (John 14:19)

In Holy Baptism we are joined to Christ, united with Him in His death, burial and resurrection! In daily contrition, repentance and being forgiven; we proclaim and live with Jesus! His resurrection is our resurrection! New converts were brought into the church on Easter through Holy Baptism! Because Jesus is alive, we also are alive and new, washed clean, wearing white robes of His righteousness, in our baptism!

By the grace of God we will welcome several new members into our family at Shepherd of Peace, this Easter Sunday! We will have several baptisms and adult confirmations! Please come and celebrate with them their new life in Christ and welcome them as fellow believers in Jesus! It is truly a joy to see the Holy Spirit working through Word and Sacrament in these soon to be new members of SOP! Easter Joy!

Before closing this article, let me say that it truly is a joy to serve you in Word and Sacrament, as your vacancy pastor! As a member and I shared in conversation recently, Shepherd of Peace is a congregation filled with joy! Jesus lives in you! My family and I wish all of you a most Blessed Easter! Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluiah! ~Pastor Henning

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



Karen and I met while she attended ASTC, that's UCA for the younger folks. We were married in 1966 at First Lutheran in Little Rock. We have 5 children and 12 grandchildren all living in the central Arkansas area, just one of our many blessings. Some of our greatest Blessings call us Grammy and Pap.

We have been members of SOP about 14 years. Most of our activities center around our family and friends. Karen is a Bunco Babe, and we enjoy reading, travel, grandchildren, and eating out and eating in. Karen is a wonderful cook, and I have enjoyed the fruits of her labor (and the meat and potatoes too).

I am a retired construction supervisor; Karen is still working at a non-profit co., GSI (Grammy Sue Inc.). She is a professional babysitter with 24 yrs. experience. Our grandchildren range in age from 4 weeks to 24 yrs.



Karen is a cradle born Lutheran, and I am "a recovering Baptist". I discovered early on that Karen was right about Lutherans (as she was in most things). I joined Peace Lutheran in Conway where we were members until we moved in 1975 to our present home. My job took me many places across the country; Karen enjoyed driving and visiting many of those places like California, New Mexico, Texas, Florida and Virginia.

~Lindy & Karen

It's a

BOY!



April 27th

Please join us for a baby shower
To help Audrey & Michael Flakoll
Welcome their new little slugger!

4:00pm

SOP Fellowship Hall

A dugout section will be available for Dad and his teammates to enjoy refreshments.
Childcare available. Team Flakoll is registered at Babies R Us and Target.





Easter Egg Stuffing

In preparation of the long time tradition of our church's Easter Egg Hunt (Rumor has it the Easter Pig will be at our church for the hunt), the SOP Youth will get together at Ms. Dani's house to stuff the Easter eggs on **Thursday, April 10th from 5:30pm-7:30pm.**

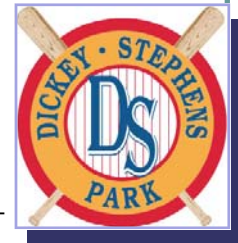
These committed youth members and friends will diligently stuff the plastic eggs for the children of the church just as they have done in years past. In fact, last year, the youth taste-tested all of the many goodies being placed in the eggs, and Ms. Dani is certain they will once again inspect the contents to ensure that only quality candy is placed inside the plastic shells.

The youth are encouraged to meet at Ms. Dani's house for the stuffing of the eggs, eating pizza, and a movie and fellowship!



Thrivent Financial News

The Heartland AR Chapter of Thrivent Financial has announced several of events for 2014. First is the Lutheran Night at the Dickey-Stevens Ballpark in North Little Rock. This is scheduled for Saturday, May 10. This is the Saturday before Mother's Day. They will be sponsoring a picnic to cheer on the Arkansas Travelers and to enjoy a good Lutheran fellowship. For just a \$5 reservation, you will get the "Cycle", an all you can eat buffet which includes chopped BBQ Sandwiches and Cole Slaw, Chicken Breasts, Burgers, Hot Dogs, Bratwursts, and Sausages. And of course you get a seat for the Travelers-Tulsa Drillers game. You do not have to be a Thrivent Member to enjoy this function. Reservations must be made by April 27th. Contact Ed Helmstetter at 851-8370 or email ed.helmstetter@sbcglobal.net.



They have also announced that Thrivent Financial has approved the chapter to help build a Habitat For Humanity house for the sixth year in a row. This home will be built in North Little Rock at a site not yet determined. (The first location selected had water and sewer problems and therefore had to be rejected). More information will be shared as it comes available. Contact Ed Helmstetter if you are interested in helping to build this house. This year, all the funding for the house will come from the Thrivent home office, so there will be no cost to the individual local congregations participating.

~Ed Helmstetter, Thrivent Congregational Coordinator

Volunteers for April

	8:00	10:30
Lay Minister	Parrish Hurley	Tony Wray
Acolyte	Sarah Shepherd	Sarah Wray
Ushers	T. Wray & M. Higgins	J. Ausburn & J. Hudson
Lector	Cookie Higgins	Mari Flemmons
Comm. Prep	E. Mahnken & P. Wheat	E. Wilburn & D. Ausburn
Comm. Assist	Mark Filter	Ken Quimby





Shepherd's Care Mother's Day Out News

March was a short month because of Spring Break, but was filled with special events. We celebrated Mardi Gras by decorating and eating our king cake while looking for the baby. We made jester hats, dressed up like kings and queens, and caught beads thrown by the teachers. We also learned about Lent and, a few days later, experienced those pesky Leprechauns at our St. Patrick's Day event. We worked again on the difference between real and fiction as we talked about the actual St. Patrick as opposed to the pretend Leprechauns. We heard how St. Patrick taught about the Triune God with a shamrock. We made Leprechauns and even had the tricky little creatures come for a visit while we were at recess. They made a topsy turvy mess in our room, put their tiny green footprints all over the tables, and even left "something" green in our toilets. At least they left us some yummy Leprechaun grapes for a snack and dropped a few of their gold coins for us.



We dealt with some Biblical concepts this month that fit with our weekly themes. We celebrated before starting the sad season of Lent. We learned how our Bible stories are true while stories about Leprechauns and lucky charms are just pretend. We also learned that our God is one God, yet three persons. We even sang about God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. We also sang, "Get Up, Get Up, Get up and tell the world" when we learned how St. Patrick told the Irish people about Christ. We realized that there are still "some people who haven't heard." Another Bible story was about Jesus' healing the blind man. We thanked God for our wonderful eyes. We had fun with some Leprechaun songs and laughed when silly "Tom, Tom the Leprechaun went to school with nothing on." We also began some ribbon dancing and bell playing in music.



In math we counted shamrocks along with our St. Pat's activities and necklaces after our Mardi Gras "parade". We talked about greater than and less than and started learning to count by tens when we counted days in Lent. When we thought about Bartimaeus begging for coins because he was blind, we explored four coins that we use in America. We began to identify the coins and understand their value. We also talked about full, empty and $\frac{1}{2}$ full when we played with the water bubbles in our sensory table.



During April we will be beginning MDO registration for next year. We like to give current students the first chance to reserve their spots. If you would like information about enrollment, contact Shepherd's Care at 851-9030 during school hours or contact the church office for more details.



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

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.

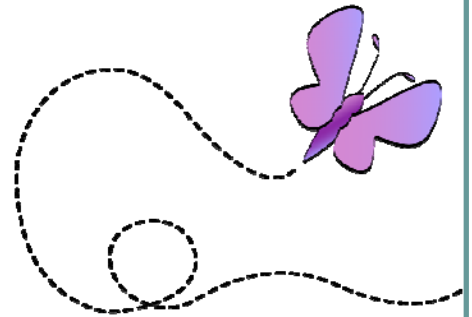
Sunday Schedule:

8:00 AM - Traditional Worship

9:15 AM - Family Bible Hour

10:30 AM - Blended Worship

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Special Days in April

- 4-3 Robert & Kimberly Tschiemer (A, 22)
- 4-8 Geoffrey Flemmons (B, 18)
- 4-9 Evan McDonald (B, 12)
- 4-16 Tom Wray (B)
Mary Yount (B)
- 4-18 Keeley Ausburn (B, 12)
- 4-22 Julie Andrus (B)
- 4-25 Helga Killion (B)
- 4-29 Ashley Davenport (B)



April 2014

Shepherd of Peace Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
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