

THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

SHEPHERD OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

A New Command

Jesus, speaking to His disciples, said, “*A new command I give to you, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another*” (John 13:34-35).

“A new command.” Yet it is an old one. It was Moses, way back in the book of Leviticus, directed by God to speak His commands to His people, who said, “*You shall not take vengeance...but you shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord*” (Leviticus 19:18).

Jesus amplified His command, however. We are to love, He said, “*as I have loved you.*” How did Christ love us? At the time, the disciples did not know the depth of Christ’s love. They hadn’t heard the angels announce the birth of their Savior in Bethlehem. They had not yet been to Calvary and couldn’t comprehend Jesus’ references to His impending death. They had no idea that the Resurrection, Ascension, and the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost were ahead.



We do have that knowledge. We understand what Jesus is talking about for we know how He loved us. He has loved us enough to leave the glories of Heaven. He has loved us more than earthly power and status and honor. He has loved us more than He loved His own life.

Jesus further said that love for one another would be the mark of members of the Family of God. Just as He gave sight to the blind, made the lame man walk, healed the sick, and preached the Gospel to eager ears, so did His followers. So should we today. With the love of Christ in us, we visit the lonely, provide food for the hungry, and share our financial resources in order that the Word of God might be preached and bring many to salvation. Loving others as Christ has loved us means that we should be willing to lay down our lives for them.

Sinful beings that we are, we are not prone to love others as Christ has loved us. The apostle John tells us how it is possible: “*Beloved,*” he wrote in 1 John 4:7, “*let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.*” We are born of God, and, by His grace, we can carry out His command to love one another through all the opportunities He gives us with all the gifts He gives us.

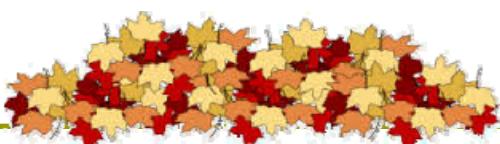


Special points of interest:

- **Trunk or Treat Fun!**
- **Men's Breakfast**
Nov. 23rd, 8:30am
- **Advent begins Dec. 1st**

Inside this issue:

Communication	2
Notes from Education	2
Lay Ministers Report	3
Parrish Grounds	3
Trunk or Treat	4
The Grey	5
The Shepherd's Flock	6
MDO News	7





Congregational Communication

Communication is a very important part of any relationship especially in times of the seemingly unknown. The leaders of Shepherd of Peace are committed to keeping the members of our church family aware of the process that is and will be taking place in the coming weeks and months, so that the line of communication can remain open, and we can all be there for one another.



Our regular Sunday worship schedule will remain as it is. We are blessed to have Rev. Lyle Mueller, who has led us in worship several times, lead us in worship and adult Sunday school again on November 10th and November 17th. On November 24th, we are honored to have Rev. Henry "Hank" Behling as our worship and study leader; he is new to us, and we are looking forward to his message. We are thankful for these men who have agreed to assist us while we get our plans in order.

The first step in the call process, which cannot happen until we are officially vacant, is a meeting with our Circuit Councilor, Rev. Kevin Conger of Hope Lutheran in Jacksonville. Rev. Conger will be leading us through our call process. Marc Higgins, Mark Filter, and Tony Wray are scheduled to meet with him in the first week of November. From there, plans will begin to take shape including plans for an intentional interim pastor who will be assigned to us during our transition and plans for the formation of a call committee.

We are entering into a very busy part of the church year, with Advent beginning December 1st. Rest assured, Midweek Advent services will go forward as typical of the Shepherd of Peace's observance of the Advent season. We will not be having a Thanksgiving Eve Service this year. Unfortunately we were unable to make plans for it with Thanksgiving being so close.

Please know that you will be kept informed throughout this process. While, to us, this may feel like a very uncertain time, we must stand together confidently in the knowledge that we are in the hands of a loving God who has beautiful plans for Shepherd of Peace as part of His kingdom of faithful believers. As he reminds us in Jeremiah 29:11, *"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."*

Finally, please take a moment to read 2nd Timothy. In those four chapters St. Paul, imprisoned before his death writes, Timothy to give instruction on continuing Christ's church. It is the same profound message today as then.

Notes from the Education Committee

The board of Education is looking for a Sunday School teacher for the 2's and 3's. This person will partner with Barbara Tilley, so it will be a shared responsibility. You will not be obligated every Sunday. Please consider this opportunity to serve. Contact Jerri Shertzer if you have any questions.

We will be starting the children's Christmas Program practice during the Sunday School hour in the next couple of weeks. We will practice in groups so that we will not lose the entire Sunday School lesson. Watch the Church bulletin for announcements concerning the play. Many thanks go to Clarice Wray and Veronica Shepherd for taking charge of this activity.



Lay Ministers' Report

We as Shepherd of Peace family are facing a rough patch in the coming weeks and months. The Holy Spirit has called Pastor Vanderbush and his family to North Carolina. That, of course, means that we will begin anew the search process and have an interim Pastor in our midst. Please join us and the Church Council in circling the spiritual wagons. Although we accept that this is God's will, it will leave a hole in our spiritual lives. Pastor Vanderbush has been a true spiritual leader for the last year. We have grown by leaps and bounds in word and spirit. We owe him a debt of gratitude for the direction he has taken us.



Just as the Holy Spirit has lead him, we all must remember that He leads our congregation as well. Our response is, "I wonder what wonderful things He has in store for us now?" Please attend church, get involved, pray, and keep encouraging each other in His name. If you have any questions or concerns please share them with us either face to face or by phone. As it says on American coins, "E Pluribus Unum" out of many one. Let us be one and be strong in His name."



Offering Counters Needed



We are in need of women and men to help prepare the offering for bank deposit following the 10:30am worship service. The process takes less than 30 minutes and requires minimal math and accounting skills. It is not a full time position; in fact, the hope is to have a revolving schedule that would require only 1 week per month per volunteer. If you would like more information on the process, please contact Carol Smith at (501) 680-4893. The sign-up sheet for the counters is located on the bulletin board.

Parrish Grounds

The Property Board has had a busy month. Not only did we finish up the exterior doors on the Fellowship Hall (Please make sure you're locking doors behind you if you're the last person out), we also verified the alarm system is very, very, VERY persistent when the batteries go dead.

We are looking for folks interested in a quick "Where stuff is, and what to do if something goes wrong" training session. If you're interested in finding out where the emergency shut-off valves are, or where to find the breaker boxes, etc. please shoot an e-mail to [proper-list@shepeace.com](mailto:property_list@shepeace.com), and we'll get you on the list for a quick rundown with someone from the board.

Finally, we are always looking for volunteers to help out with all things property related. Whether you're interested in maintaining computer systems, landscaping, or interior decorating, the property board is a wonderful place full of smiling faces working together for the glory of God. Please reach out to Jeremy Ausburn at queue96@live.com. There is definitely a place for you and stuff to do!



Trunk or Treat 2013



The Weigand Boys act out a scene from Star Wars.



Michael Flakoll won Best Costume!



We were blessed with a good turn out despite the rain for our 2013 Trunk or Treat. Thank you all who participated in the fun!!



The Cupcake Walk was a hit thanks to F'lar, Keeley, & our bakers!



Did you know Dominoes delivers from Texas?? What a treat to have some of Cardinals come from Texas to help with our event!



Elaina & friend got their faces painted by Maeghan! Looks Great!



All the Oompa Loopas agreed! Laura Quimby's Candy Land was the best decorated Trunk!



Smiles!



The Tillys showed their Cardinal Pride with their trunk.



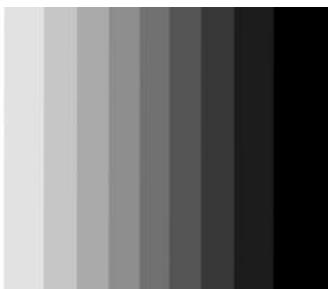
What a blessing of Fellowship and Fun!



Candy!

The Grey

Grey. It is a color, or shading, that is very broad in definition. One spectrum could be near black, the other is closer to white, but all varieties still grey. It is even acceptable to spell it differently: gray. We are used to grey in our society. It's everywhere, just look around. But it is not just there as a color. "Grey" is also a way of looking at the world, and its relativity of truth and perspective, is now the accepted norm for our post-modern landscape of life. What is true for one person isn't necessarily true for another. The broadness of definition and perspective can be vastly different even from people who have lived across the street from one another for years. Shopping the same



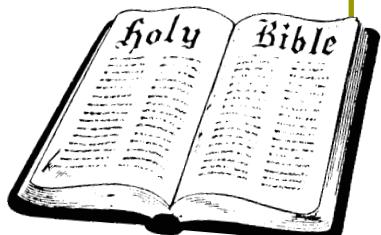
stores, sending their children to the same schools, watching the same television shows, and even rooting for the same football teams (whether having an on or off season), individuals and their take-aways can vary greatly, a lot like grey. This concept of "grey" can sometimes even be evident for Christians, but before we go off labeling God's Word as having a variety of shades on subjects that we might classify in our "grey" categories, it is good that we sit back and see a little "black and white", like from Galatians 5:19-24 for example:

Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Wow! Much of what Paul lays out as black and white falls well within the grey of our society. Thank God for setting us up with the ability to gain some much better perspective. See, as humans we are always measuring truth, wondering and perceiving, judging and being judged. Stopping what we are doing and getting a dose of "black and white" from God's Word is a good thing. What Paul has pointed out so eloquently above calls us out from our grey and into God's *black and white*. I don't care who you are, there is something in that list of the works of the flesh that makes you uneasy, all because the truth is clear and we are all sinners. What makes you squirm might not be what makes me squirm, but the truth is still there, all in *black and white*. Thank God for grace!! We know God doesn't want us walking around in those things, so we strive not to and never call it good, but we rely solely on His love in the saving life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ by faith to solve what we can't fix. Then we get the other side, that which comes from the Spirit. Praise God when we see these good things at work within us. This all fits into what we in the Lutheran church like to call *simul justus et peccator*, which is Latin for "at the same time saint and sinner", the Christian's condition of having a black and white reality with implications that can sometimes seem pretty grey...aaah! Again, thank God for being able call sin "sin", and for grace that comes from Him alone!

So, be careful with grey. When you have to use it, make sure you understand how it stands against black and white. And remember, you belong to Christ Jesus, and that truth is completely in His hands and not grey at all.

Soli Deo Gloria (Glory to God alone!)



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

The Behmer family joined Shepherd of Peace in November of 1998 when they moved back to Arkansas from Minnesota. Arkansas was to be their home after retiring. They chose Shepherd of Peace, because they had moved to Conway. Arlene's daughter and family, Mari, Kenn, and Geoffrey, lived in Little Rock, and Maumelle seemed like a good place to meet each Sunday for church. They all came to love Shepherd of Peace and are happy to be part of the Shepherd of Peace family.

Arlene and Dale were married in 1979 and combined families of 2 and 5 children. After 32 years of marriage, Dale was diagnosed with cancer and passed away in 2011.



Arlene grew up in St. Louis and was a "Synod kid." She is a descendent of the Saxons who came from Germany and settled in Perry County, Missouri. They started the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. Her father was Secretary of Schools for the Missouri Synod from 1940 until he retired 30 years later. Arlene attended Lutheran Schools from first grade through eighth, and then Lutheran High School for four more years. Then she went to Concordia College Chicago, then known as Concordia River Forest. She is a graduate from that school and received her masters from UCA in Conway. She taught in Lutheran Schools for 35 years. Her main love was first grade, but also taught several other grades in lower elementary. She also worked as Director of the Lord of Life Learning Center in Little Rock. Another interest of Arlene's is music. She played the organ for church for many years, and also helped out at Shepherd of Peace with church services and the choir.



She enjoys watching her grandson, Geoffrey, grow up and get ready for college in the fall. It is nice for her to have the Flemmons family close and ready to go places with her. She attends a lot of football games to watch Geoffrey play in the marching band, and baseball games to watch him pitch or play first base. Arlene also has a son, Greg, in Raleigh, NC. He is married to Ellen, and they have 2 girls. One of them, Lindsey, will be getting married in May. Dale had 5 children and 13 grandchildren who are scattered around the country. Arlene loves having such a large extended family.



Since retiring, Arlene keeps busy celebrating birthdays and Christmas with friends and family. She is very active in the Little Rock Bridge Club and other bridge clubs with friends. She is a member of Bunko Babes at Shepherd of Peace. She also loves to travel and has been to most of the European countries, Canada, and Iceland. Maybe another trip will be in the plans.

Arlene says that "Faith, Family, and Friends" are the most important things in life and in the hereafter.

Volunteers for November Services

8:00

Lay Minister	Peter Christiansen
Acolyte	Sarah Shepherd
Ushers	T. Wray & L. Johnston
Comm. Prep	Hurley & Johnston
Comm. Assist	Tom Wray

10:30

Tony Wray
Sydney Wray
G. Flemmons & R. Sutherland
Wlibern & Densberger
Ken Quimby



Shepherd's Care Mothers' Day Out News

October was full of special events at pre-school. We started out learning about fire safety and welcomed two firemen and their truck to school. We learned not to hide from the firefighters even if they look scary. We learned to stop, drop, and roll if we catch on fire, and not to touch matches or lighters. We practiced staying low and crawling out under the smoke and finding parents at our meeting spot. We even made a fire truck we could EAT for snack. Then we took a trip to the BoBrook pumpkin patch and had a fun hayride. We got to pick out our own pumpkin too, and play in the corn pit. Brownie, our preschool puppy, finally got to have week end sleepovers



with two of our preschool friends. He is looking forward to going home with each child sometime during the year, and telling us all about his adventures in his journal.

In our Bible stories this month we've heard about how God showed His love to His people. In one story he gave Hannah the child she prayed for, and then Hannah took that son to work in the temple. God also showed His love to Noah's family as He rescued them from the flood. God moved friends of Elisha to build a room for him and helped Joshua's army knock down a wall. We learned God loves us like that as well, and we made placemats with prayers we could use to tell Him thank you for His gifts. We had fun "playing" the stories as we marched around our own wall, sailed on the arc, and sewed a coat for Samuel like Hannah did.



We practiced scissor skills with paper strips and scissors in our sensory table. We added the letters Mm and Hh to our letter wall. We learned that fire needs air to burn when we watched a candle go out after we covered it with a glass. We spent some fun time making Halloween crafts and hearing some silly Halloween stories. One was about Gary Ghost who tried to be every color, but discovered that it was best to just be the special white ghost that God made him to be. We continue to find patterns with the numbers on our calendar and have practiced sorting things into groups.



We are looking forward to a Halloween parade and party next week. We also hope to share some songs and Halloween poems with parents and friends on October 31, around 9:30. Thanks in advance to the parents and grandparents who are providing special treats for our party lunch. If you have not received the email from Mrs. Carol about the Oct. 31 festivities, please make sure to give her your correct email address so you can be included in that email group. You should also have received an email sharing pictures of a couple of special events. If you are not getting those and would like them, please tell Mrs. Carol.



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

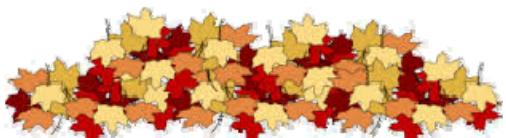
10:30 AM - Blended Worship

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Special Days in November

- | | | | |
|-------|---|-------|--|
| 11-1 | All Saints' Day | 11-14 | Parrish Hurley (B) |
| 11-2 | Monty Anderson (B)
Jeremy Ausburn (B)
Serge Gallant (B) | 11-19 | Lisa Roberts (B)
Megan Tschiemer (B,16) |
| 11-3 | Rita Hibdon (B)
Cookie Higgins (B)
Jason & Carol Smith (A,12) | 11-21 | Fred & Patti Lemons (A,40) |
| 11-6 | Jim & Elizabeth Hudson (A,59) | 11-23 | Janice Densberger (B)
Joey Maguire (B,4) |
| 11-7 | Ib Sutherland (B) | 11-24 | Liz Sutherland (B) |
| 11-8 | Audrey Flakoll (B) | 11-27 | Matt Maguire (B) |
| 11-9 | Laura Quimby (B) | 11-28 | Thanksgiving Day
Addison Leach (B,6)
Carson Miller (B,6) |
| 11-10 | Martin Luther's Birthday, 1483 | | |
| 11-12 | Mark Giese (B) | | |



November 2013

Shepherd of Peace Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																		
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