

The Shepherd's Voice

September 2013

Volume 25, Issue 8

Work Is a God-Given Ability

Special points of interest:

- Fall Sunday School Quarter begins Sept. 8
- Men's Breakfast is Sept. 28th
- Confirmation class and Mid-Week Teens resumes this month.

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On the first Monday in September, we annually celebrate Labor Day, which is dedicated to the social and economic achievement of American workers. Since 1884, workers enjoy a holiday from their work. As Christians, we know that work is a blessing from God. In the very beginning, God put Adam and Eve to work in the garden (Genesis 2:15).

Our work and labor enable us to earn money. Even though Scripture is clear that God owns all things, we may say, "This isn't God's money in my wallet. It's my money. I worked for it. I deserve it." God has heard this over and over again. God addresses this attitude in the eighth chapter in Deuteronomy. God had brought His people out of slavery and was taking care of their every need. He was providing food each morning. He was protecting them and blessing them in battle. In spite of His gracious provision for them, the nation continued to gripe and complain all the time. Even though God provided for their needs, they ignored Him.

In our own lives, when our stomachs are full and we have success, we have a tendency to forget all that God has done for us. We take credit for our success, forgetting that God has made it happen, and then we blame Him for our failures! God's people stopped thanking and praising Him for all their blessings. They had forgotten that He had given them the ability to work so they could earn the money needed to provide for their blessings. Moses wrote, "Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.' You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth..." (Deuteronomy 8:17-18).

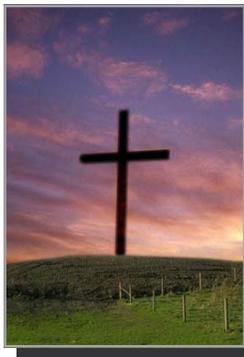
As God's laborers, we are mindful that God gives us the ability to work and gain wealth. To enable us to work, God does the following:

- God gives us talents, abilities, and skills.
- God gives us bodies, strength, and energy to work.
- God gives us ideas and creativity.
- God gives us dedication, ingenuity, and initiative.
- God gives us opportunities to work.
- God gives us employers who pay us for our work.



When we understand God's role in making it possible to work and earn money, we will acknowledge His ownership of our money. Accepting that God is the source and owner of what we have, we begin to manage our money in ways that give Him glory. We use our money in ways that serve God's purposes.

Lift High the Cross



There are many symbols throughout the Church, many that we can point to and be reminded of God's work in our lives. During the month of September the Church sets aside the 14th as a day to recall the Holy Cross of Jesus, that great symbol of His death and resurrection. The cross is simple and easy to recognize: two beams, boards, or poles, (you name the material, I have one made of nails in my office.) one shorter than the other, crossing one another to make the form of a small "t". Most people in the world are able to recognize a cross and tell you that it stands for Christianity, or something like that; and to most of them, it seems pretty foolish. Why would a cross be something of value? When you regard what it actually is, it seems rather gruesome. How different is a cross than an electric chair or guillotine? They are all instruments of death used by governments over the years to carry out punishments on those breaking the law. You don't see Muslims with swords dangling on their necklaces. Why wouldn't the world think the cross odd?

But to us Christians the cross is different. It isn't just an instrument of torture, punishment and death, but a receipt, or a reminder, that the justice carried out for our law-breaking is done, taken out on Jesus. Jesus blood was shed, not ours; which covered our sins, appeasing God our Father, delivering us from damnation. Here we can call the cross a place of mercy, for we do not receive what we deserve; Jesus has taken our place, dying in our stead. After this sinks in, we are lead to see the cross as a reminder of promise. God once gave a rainbow as a sign of promise in the heavens to stay destruction by water, and therefore hope in the midst of life's many storms. Baptism brings us fully into that reality. And now the cross stands as a promise of our eternal justification before God, mercy lived out. From this it becomes a reminder of grace, our receiving what we don't deserve in eternal life and bliss as heirs of Christ's Kingdom, the hope we have because Christ took our place.

"...the cross stands as a promise of our eternal justification before God..."

This month, as we lift high the cross together, please keep the words of St. Paul in mind from 1 Corinthians 1:18-25:

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.



Thank God for the cross and for it being a simple symbol that we can cling to as a place of mercy, promise and grace.

~Pastor Neil Vanderbush

Men's Bible Study Group discusses Death

The Men's Breakfast/ Bible study group, which meets the fourth Saturday each month, is currently studying: Death...Then What? By Rev. Michael Newman. Here's what it's all about: That we all die is pretty much agreed upon, it's what takes place two seconds later that makes us wonder. Explore this lively and completely relevant topic in *Death ... Then What?*



Softening death with euphemisms or denying its approach with cosmetic surgery doesn't change the fact it's there -- waiting for us all. Eating healthy, avoiding vices and exercising regularly are all touted as ways to get more mileage from our bodies. And while these practices may increase physical performance, they will not put the skids on our demise. Looking beyond our mortal lives here, man has formulated complex religions, philosophies and ideologies to attempt a glimpse behind the final curtain, dropping on each of us, when we close our eyes in this world for the last time.

Innovative as these systems of thought may be, they offer no solace against the perfect judgment of an omniscient and righteous God. *That* relief is available only through Jesus' redemptive work on the cross. In Him all the speculations of religious thought and baffling intricacies of philosophical inquiry come crumbling down. As God's creatures -- *as sinners* -- the end of our days is entirely in His hands. In this fact neither our clever wordplay nor our comedic explanations will do us any good, but only faith in Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

Parish Grounds: News from the Property Committee

The Property Board is currently coordinating the annual backflow tests on the water supply system for the property.

The e-mail hosting services for the church have also been renewed. Part of these hosting services includes the ability to facilitate "discussion groups" via e-mail. If you are interested in leading an e-mail discussion group (for example, your care group would like to coordinate your activities via e-mail using a single e-mail address that sends e-mail to everyone in your group) please send an e-mail to property@shepeace.com with some specifics, and we will get it all set up for you.



The existing Christmas trees are being removed from the property, as they have not fared well in recent months. Replacements will be required before the upcoming Christmas season.

And finally, after many failed attempts to crack the combination, it was decided that Leroy would take the mystery safe from the file room to the local locksmith to be opened. We were all looking forward to finding out what treasures were hidden before the combination was forgotten, but it proved to merely contain some parish documents.

Keys to the Kingdom



The front doors to the Fellowship Hall are complete and look fantastic. If you haven't had a chance to see them, they definitely brighten up and modernize the building. They have been re-keyed. If you need a copy of the key, please contact the office to have one issued. They must be signed out.

SOP Youth battle at Paint Ball Arkansas



Members of SOP Youth, their friends, and some very daring adults battled it out Sunday at Paint Ball Arkansas and had a wonderful time. Twelve people attended the event and were divided in several different teams for an assortment of competitions including capture the flag and capture the fort. They bonded while defending their territory as teams, but also got much pleasure in “taking out” their friends in battle with small pellets of paint being fired at rapid speeds. Needless to say, everyone walked away with fun memories and bruises.

(Pictured : Ben Weigand, Savannah Wray, Sydney Wray, Matthew Davis, Geoffrey Flemmons, Dean Vanderbush, F'lar Ausburn, Robby Gibson, Danielle Ausburn, Sarah Shepherd, Maeghan Gibson, and Caleb Mahnken.)

More than just a Fish Tale

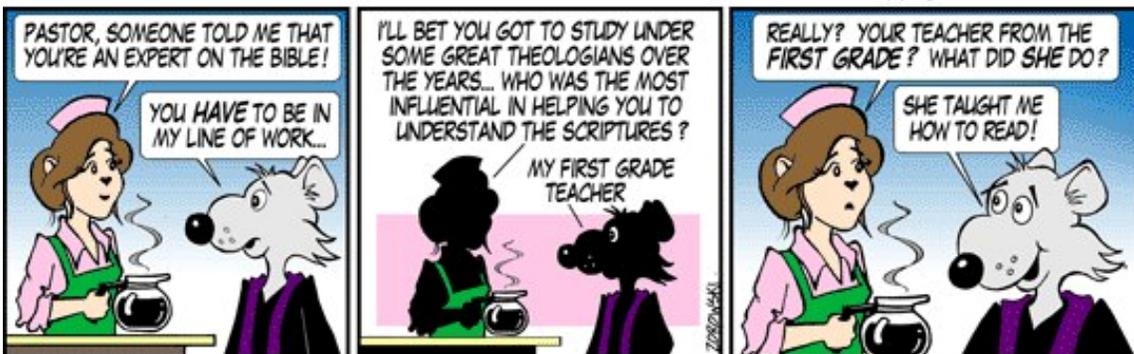


Many young fishermen (and women) competed in Maumelle Parks & Recreation's Annual Fishing Derby in August and walked away with smiles and fishing tales, but two of Shepherd of Peace's small members walked away with the prize. Sloane Smith, a first time competitor, took home a 11lb 1oz catfish and a brand new fishing pole, by winning her age division. Connor Smith, who has won in previous competition in his age division, caught a 31b 6oz catfish after baiting his own line. This catch allowed him to reel in not only first in his age group, but also the overall win for the entire derby! His prizes include a new pole and a new tackle box. Great job Smith children! We look forward to seeing you on River Monsters in DISC in the future. (With skills like yours, you'll replace Jeremy Wade one day.)



Church Mice

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

Felix & Gloria Cates have been in Little Rock since childhood and met when they were divorced with children. It was their love for their families that brought them together, and they married 30 years ago and created their own 'Brady Bunch'... Felix had two boys, Scott and Kevin & Gloria had a son and daughter, Drew and Tina. They are blessed to still have all their children in the Little Rock area: Scott lives in Cabot with his wife, Tracy, and their daughters Haley & Payton; Kevin is a Professor at UALR lives in North Little Rock with wife his, Amy, and children, Cameron & Ivy Ann; Drew lives in Little Rock with his wife, Amber, and sons, Caden & Colten, and is a Coach at Vilonia High School; Tina is busy studying for her Masters' degree and raising her children, Legna & Landry! With eight grandchildren its a wonderful time of life!!

Felix has been in the Insurance industry since 1970 working at AEGON Life Insurance Company for 25 years and at Blue Cross Blue Shield as a Senior Underwriter for the last 18 years. He has set his retirement date for Spring 2014! As most of you know Felix is a 'die hard' sports fan, following the Razorbacks & the Cowboys are his hobbies!

Gloria is a preschool teacher at Westover Hills Preschool. She has worked with children for many years in many capacities. She started as Preschool Director at First Care at First Lutheran church in downtown Little Rock in

1998, and followed our own Arlene Behmer as Director of Lord of Life Learning Center in West Little Rock. In her free time she enjoys singing in the choir and 'scrapbooking' the Cate's many travels and their kids & grandkids!

“What we love most about Shepherd of Peace are the people, the closeness of this small congregation, and the commitment to sharing Christ's love. It is what brought us across the river!!”



~ Gloria & Felix

Volunteers for September

	8:00	10:30
Lay Minister	Mark Filter	Tony Wray
Acolyte	Sarah Shepherd	Megan Tschiemer
Ushers	L. Johnston & P. Hurley	R. Sutherland & J. Smith
Comm. Prep	Johnston & Higgins	Sutherland
Comm. Assist	Marc Higgins	Michael Flakoll
Kitchen Attend.	Laura	Quimby



Fall Sunday School Quarter Begins



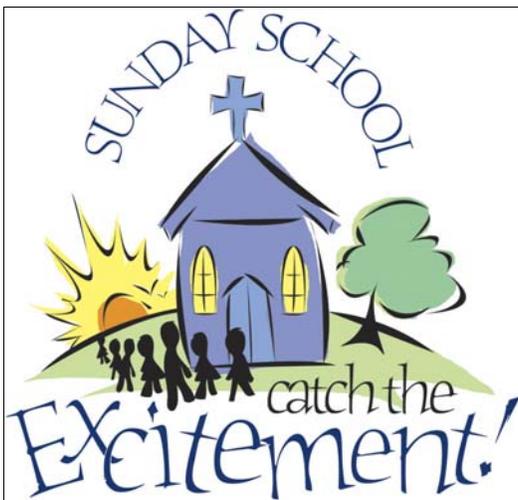
Fall Sunday School Quarter begins September 8th. Please give a big thanks to those that have agreed to teach this quarter: Holly Vanderbush, Barbara Tilley, Janette Hurley, Chuck Fandri, Tracy Wray, Kara Weigand, Jerri Shertzer, Veronica Shepherd, and Danielle Ausburn. And, of course, Pastor. We will be using the Growing in Christ curriculum in our children's classrooms. September 1st will be a "fun" day at Sunday School. We will have treats and videos to help mark the start of a new term.

MDO startup was a huge success. We have 24 kids attending, with a couple of more starting a little later in September. Several of the parents have said that they researched all the pre-school programs in Maumelle, and ours is by far the best. Carol is using a new Concordia curriculum with the Pre-K students. She already has the kids standing in line, putting things away, raising their hands, and even recognizing their letters. Liz and Rene are working hard in making the very littlest ones feel comfortable about their "away from mommy" experience. Carol, Liz, Rene and Lucy really do a great job with the kids.

Adults and Youth Delve Deep into the OT

Pastor Vanderbush's Adult Sunday School class recently began a study on the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy. You are invited to join in on a journey with this study, about the second giving of the Law to the children of Israel before their entry into the promised land from their wilderness wondering, having a little bit of fun and daily application along the way.

The youth are beginning an in-depth look at the Old Testament book of Exodus. They will be using Lighthouse, a CPH series, to help guide them in understanding the covenant God made with His people in Exodus, and the significance it has for God's people of the new convent. The series is designed to help the youth grow in group study as well as in their own personal faith in Jesus Christ. Class meets at 9:20am in the Youth Room starting Sunday, September 8th.



Mid-Week
TEENS



Thursday Nights 6-7pm

SOP Youth Room

Shepherd's Care Mothers' Day Out News

The first weeks at Mother's Day Out/Preschool were great. There were no tears in the 3 & 4 year old "big kid's" class, and not too many in the 1 & 2 year old class. Everyone was anxious to get started playing and making new friends. We spent a lot of the time learning procedures for everything. Walking in a line was a big step, as was waiting our turn, and washing up in the bathrooms. We learned where all the toys went and how to put them away when Mrs. Carol sings the clean up song. We learned prayers for snack time, lunch time, and rest time. We are working on sharing skills and using words to ask for what we need. We did our best at following directions and enjoyed pom-poms in our sensory table as well as "painting" with wheels of cars and trucks. Some students were on vacation each week, so we'll continue to welcome new friends in the weeks to come.

Our first Bible story during circle time was the story of Jesus telling his friends to, "Let the little children come to me." We used costumes and props to pretend to be parents with children and we took them to Jesus and his "grouchy" disciples. :) Next we heard about Abraham having to move to a new land. We picked up our circle time activities, packed a box, and moved our class over to a new spot in the church building. We even had to make camp and "sleep" on the way to our new spot like Abraham did. We made a bulletin board that shows places we went this summer and how God was with us everywhere we went just like he was with Abraham. We sang songs in music to reinforce truths from these Bible stories like, "Absolutely Nothin'," "When I Wiggle," and "Father Abraham."

We began alphabet work with the sound of letter Jj, because we talked about Jesus' love. One day we made jellyfish because that starts with Jj, and we made them swim high, low, up, down and in circles to work on position words. Mrs. Carol will be assessing the older students in September to record what letters, shapes, colors, and numbers they already know. Results of the assessments will be sent home with children in the 3 & 4 year old class.

We increased the number of teachers on staff this year and that allowed us to enroll a few more children. We are delighted to have Mrs. Lucy as a helper for Mrs. Carol in the 3-4 year old class and Mrs. Renee and Mrs. Liz are continuing to teach the 1 - 2 year olds. Currently we have 16 in the older class and 8 in the younger class. Thanks to Mrs. Jerri for being our greeter, to Miss Abby for subbing in the first week, and to Mrs. Carol Smith for just "pitching in" when we needed her. It's going to be a super year.

MDO is off to a great start with 24 eager kids and 4 wonderful teachers!



FALL



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Lutheran Church

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Rev. Neil Vanderbush, Pastor

facebook

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



Visit us at Shepeace.com!

Special Days in September

9-1 George & Kathy Heintzen (A, 40)
9-2 Labor Day
9-4 Bob Kling (B)
9-8 Linda Geddes (B)
9-10 Alex Cardinal (B, 2)
9-11 Melissa Anderson (B)
9-14 Holy Cross Day
9-15 Monty & Stephanie Anderson (A,29)
Ed Helmstetter (B)
9-16 Spencer Mahnken (B,6)
9-18 Austin Quimby (B, 18)
Gene Shepherd (B)
Tom & Clarice Wray (A, 53)



9-19 International Talk Like a Pirate Day
9-21 Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
Becky Newberry (B)
9-23 Ladye Hurley (B, 18)
9-28 Michael Flakoll (B)
Abigail Vanderbush (B, 12)
9-29 Michael and All Angels
Andrea Heintzen (B)
Patti Lemons (B)

September 2013

Shepherd of Peace Lutheran Church

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