



The Shepherd's Voice

Shepherd of Peace
Lutheran Church

Volume 25, Issue 5

May 2013



Your Journey as a Steward

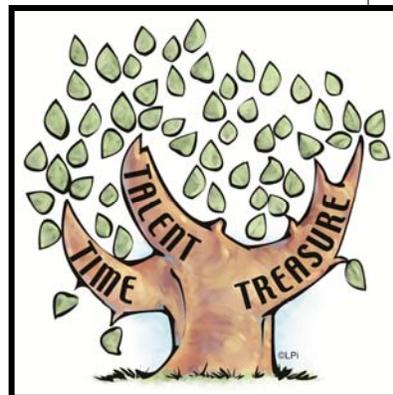
A steward is the manager of someone else's property for the benefit of the owner. In Genesis chapter one, God makes mankind (you) the steward over all He has made. "And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens..." (Verse 26). He has given you, along with other Christians, the responsibility of taking care of His property. Your purpose as a steward is again stated in the second chapter of Genesis. "The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it" (Genesis 2:15). You are the manager and caretaker of God's creation.

God has chosen us to be His stewards. It is not our doing, but it is God working in and through us. Over our lifetimes, God molds and shapes us into the stewards He wants us to be. He starts the journey, and He provides for our continued growth. The journey continues as we grow in faith, trust, and submission. Each of our individual journeys begins with faith that God gives us. Through faith, we understand that we are His special adopted children who are given a special privilege and responsibility to be His stewards. Faith helps us understand that we are all on this journey together. God organizes us into families, churches, and communities, and into the Body of Christ. He places within us a desire to have a relationship with Him and our fellow believers.

In our journey as stewards, we see shifts in both our attitudes and deeds. One of the first changes is a shift from a broken or separated relationship with God to a relationship of intimacy with Him. With changed hearts, we seek to be in His presence. We speak to Him through our prayers and in worship. We seek to know His will. As our relationship with Jesus deepens, we become more obedient. We move from disobedience to faithfulness. We want to please and honor Him in what we say and do.

As God molds us and transforms us into His stewards, we look differently at our material world. We become less attached and focused on accumulating money and things. We are in the world but not of the world. As new people in Christ, we use money not only to provide for our needs, but to help others in need and to spread the Good News of the Gospel to those near and far. We understand that it is not our money but money that God has merely entrusted to us to manage faithfully. We have the wonderful privilege and the responsibility to give generously of what we have.

In our journey as stewards, we will often disappoint God by not doing what we should with our time, talents, and money, but God is there to forgive us, pick us up, and put us back on our journey as stewards. How blessed we are that God is given us the high calling of being His stewards! "Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15).

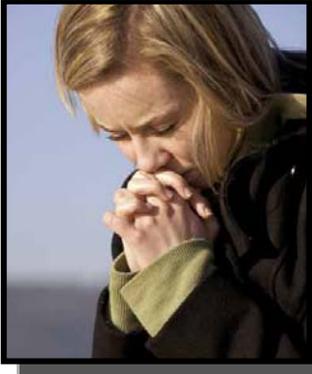


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Special points of interest:

- Men's Breakfast, May 18, 8:30am
- Lutheran Night at the Ballpark, May 18, 6pm
- Unity Sunday, May 26, 10:00am Service
- Contact the church office for address changes & prayer request updates



King of kings

In the light of the extended political unrest and uncertainty in our time, including the continued exploration towards nuclear weapons from radical nations who do not value life, the continued turmoil and saga of a culture without a godly conscience, anti-Christian agendas rising with money and power over morality, and the persecution of the Church consider the following prayer:

*O Omnipotent, Eternal, and Merciful God, Lord of hosts, You remove kings and set up kings (Daniel 2:21). All powers in heaven and on earth are from You (Colossians 1:16). In heaven, the angels worship You, archangels praise You, thrones revere You. Governing authorities are subject to You and revere You, dominions serve You (Romans 13:1-4), the powers fear You. With these holy and most powerful spirits, I join my prayers, such as they are, and humbly ask You to fill our earthly government with the spirit of wisdom. Protect it with the strength of Your might. Support with Your grace all Christian rulers so the more they encounter danger because of their position, the more they will experience the abundance of Your kindness. Kindle in their hearts the light of heavenly wisdom so they recognize that they are subject to You, Lord of all, that they are Your vassals, and that one day they must give account for their governing... * ***

How fitting is this prayer to our present situation. As we join along in the prayer we are reminded of our governments' place and Who they are to serve. Rulers are subject to the supreme authority of our Lord, whether Christian or not. We need to be reminded of this, especially when decisions made by our rulers and those nations surrounding us seem to contradict that which our Lord has commanded. Pray for these men and women wielding the sword of government, that they would be faithful to their task and the True God they are actually serving. Also keep the future elections in prayer, that those who would serve God and not themselves be elected. God bless you, God bless our nation.

*This prayer was penned by none other than Johann Gerhard (1582-1637). His was a time of political and social unrest. The plague, the Thirty Years War and other wars fought in the name of religion that devastated much of Europe were all well known by this man, however he and others like him stood firm for they knew that God's Word and His promises were solid.

**From *Exercitium Pietatis Quotidianum (Daily Exercise of Piety) of 1629*, Johann Gerhard. Translation, *Meditations on Divine Mercy*, by Matthew Harrison, CPH, 2003.

“Grant that I may not pray alone with the mouth; help me that I may pray from the depths of my heart.”

Martin Luther

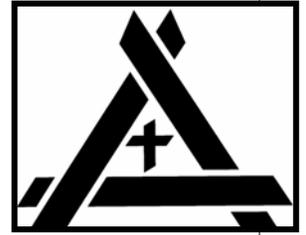
A New Addition



Some may not have noticed the extra efforts given by our musicians. It isn't always easy for them to complete their task when the instrument doesn't want to cooperate. But somehow they've managed. There have been times when the congregation may be tempted to think that Lisa or Clarice were just lagging behind or not paying attention to the service, when in fact they were diligently prodding the keyboard to do its part. Now, thanks to the efforts of our instrumentalists in locating just the right replacement, for the support of the Property Board doing their role, and for you, who have given faithfully to this ministry, we now have a new keyboard that will meet our needs for the time being. Take a moment, check it out and give God thanks for His provision. Pray for our great musicians, too, that their efforts can go toward leading us in making a joyful sound without the hassle and worry of a troubled instrument.



Lutheran Camp on Petit Jean



Children all over the state are counting down the days until they are out of school for summer vacation, and it is fast approaching. This leaves parents with the big question of how their children are going to spend their time over the summer months. Lutheran Camp on Petit Jean (LCPJ) offers a variety of Christ centered camps throughout the summer for all ages, beginning June 12-14 with a K-4 camp and continuing through July with a camp for High School ages July 21-26. LCPJ has co-ed as well as boy only and girl only camps. There is even a family camp opportunity! If you would like more information on this fantastic opportunity for summer Christ-centered fun, visit their website:

www.lutherancamp.org. (Financial assistance is available for those who qualify.)

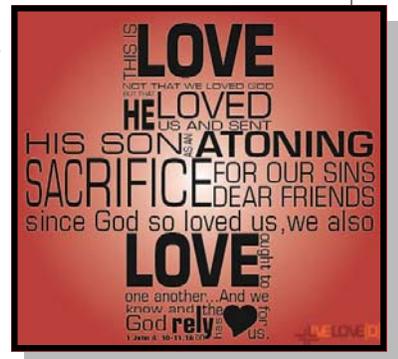


SOP Youth Preparing for the NYG

As you most likely know, six members of the SOP Youth Group are heading to San Antonio, Texas June 30th for the 2013 NYG. Over the last several months, these teens have stepped up to the challenge of raising as much money as they could to off-set the cost of the trip. They have served dinners, made breakfasts, baby-sat, washed cars, and enjoyed the blessing of leaf raking to help with the funding. (They are still available for additional jobs should you need them.) These opportunities have allowed the youth to serve others and grow in fellowship as they have begun to learn and understand more fully the blessings of caring for others.

But, now the real work is beginning for these teens. Now is the time the youth begin to really prepare their hearts for the journey that is the NYG. At the end of April the youth began to shift their focus to the Gathering theme, *Live Love(d)*. The theme is based on 1 John 4:9, *“In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world so that we might live through Him.”* So the question for them becomes, “What does it mean to live through His love?” Figuring out what love *really* is and what to do with that is a huge journey for anyone in a society where love has been washed down, dirtied, even denied. They are finding the answers in various biblical studies which they are meeting for each Sunday and Thursday leading up to the Gathering and in personal devotions they are doing independently.

Please pray for the SOP youth members, their parents, and Ms. Dani as they prepare their hearts and minds for the amazing, life-changing, living-loved journey that lies ahead in San Antonio (and beyond).



Church Mice

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Council Corner: Updates from Your Church Council



The Financial Review is now under way. Gene Shepherd, Veronica Shepherd, Dave Schroeder and Jane Schroeder are doing a fantastic job of identifying scope and purpose of the review. They are working closely with Ed Helmstetter, Carol Smith, Pastor and me to gather all the appropriate documentation and will soon begin crunching numbers. When it is all said and done, in addition to reporting out on the 2012 books, they intend to also provide a template for future reviews. If you get a chance, please thank them for their efforts!
~Michael Flakoll, Executive Director

Lay Ministers met at our usual Thursday meeting. Pastor prayed and taught scripture, we discussed the needs of the parish, particularly the sick and shut in. We prayed for and discussed our education and property needs, as well as continuing education for Pastor. Pastor Vanderbush closed with a prayer. The Lay Ministers would like to remind everyone that we are at your disposal for any need you or your family has, or if you just want to talk about the spiritual health of our congregation. Our reachable numbers are below:

Marc Higgins 650.1893
Pete Christenson 410.2294
Parrish Hurley 410.0994
Mark Filter 673.5448
Tony Wray 804.4155

We continue to pray for our missionaries, Mike and Ann Wade. We have not had any new information re. Mike's medical changes. We also hold their mission church family in Kyr-gyzstan in our prayers as they continue to bring the light of Jesus' message. We had a great response to the Lenten In Gathering. We are now seeking volunteers to help with sewing the back packs. These are very simple to sew and have been pre-cut. Contact Beth Helmstetter or Evelyn Chagnon. ~ Evelyn Chagnon, Missions



The rain or shine 5K was a great success! Thanks to everyone who came out. A great time was had by all. Growth committee will be meeting early this month to determine what exciting opportunities await. Stay tuned! ~Ben Weigand, Church Growth

Mark you calendar - VBS dates for this year are July 14 - 18. In the next few weeks, we will be signing up volunteers. There are lots of different areas that need workers. There is a job that will be perfect for your talents whether that be teaching, leading, food preparation, set-up, decorations or clean up. We hope you will prayerfully consider being a part of this wonderful experience. The youth are still working hard getting ready for the National Youth Gathering in July. These young people are still available for rental to help you take care of those odd jobs you need done around your house or yard. Give Dani a call to schedule. ~Jerri Shertzer, Education



Your 2013 Church Council Members are:

Executive Director:	Michael Flakoll	Financial Secretary:	Carol Smith
Secretary:	Kara Weigand	Treasurer:	Ed Helmstetter
Stewardship:	Ken Quimby	Church Growth:	Ben Weigand
Property:	Jason Smith	Education:	Jerri Shertzer
Missions:	Evelyn Chagnon		

~These men and women are always looking for input and member help on their various boards and would love to hear from you!

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

Drew and I (Stephanie) are from the same small town in central Illinois. We started dating in our senior year of High School after many years of being friends. When college time came, Drew went off to Illinois State University in Bloomington/Normal and studied accounting. I went to Concordia University in Chicago and studied Music Education. In 2004, we married, and moved to the Peoria, IL area, where Drew started his career with Caterpillar. I took on a job as a pet trainer, and continued that until our first child, Carson, was born in 2007. We decided that I would stay at home and be a mom full time.

Shortly after Carson was born, Drew was transferred to the Caterpillar facility in Decatur, IL. During our time in Decatur, we had another child, Jackson, in 2010. Things were holding steady in Decatur, but Drew's time was coming to an end at that facility. They asked if he would be willing to move to Little Rock and take on a position as the business manager at this new motorgrader facility. So we started a new chapter in our lives in August 2012, when we moved to Maumelle.



I still stay at home with the boys, and there's not much that I would rather do than raise my beautiful children. Lately, though, we have been considering the idea of starting up a photography business. I started photography as a hobby when Carson was born, and my love for it has grown into photographing other people.

We are so thankful to have found a wonderful church family right here in Maumelle. God was definitely looking out for us, since we were worried that it was going to be difficult to find a Lutheran church in Arkansas, let alone one that we feel completely comfortable in. Thank you all for making us feel welcome during this transition in our lives!

~ Drew, Stephanie, Carson & Jackson



May's Worship Volunteers

8:00

Lay Minister	Marc Higgins
Acolyte	Ladye Hurley
Ushers	L. Mahnken & T. Wray
Comm. Prep	Hurley & Shertzer
Comm. Assist	Peter Chrisitansen

10:30

Tony Wray
Megan Tschiemer
J. Smith & F. Ausburn
Flakoll
Michael Flakoll



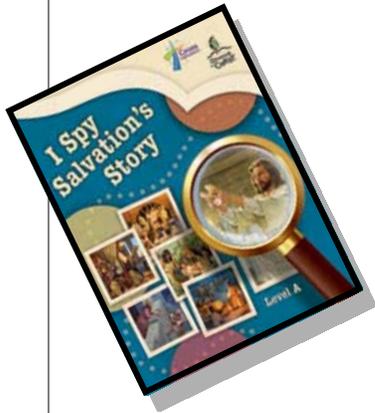
Sunday School Teachers Share Life Changing Lessons

A HUGE thank you to our wonderful Sunday School teachers who have been sharing Bible truths with the children in Sunday School this quarter. Holly Vanderbush, Carol Smith, Beth Helmstetter, Kara Weigand, Jerri Shertzer, and Danielle Ausburn have been ever so faithful at being there for our kids as they lead them to know the Good Shepherd. In addition Liz Sutherland stepped in for Beth when she had to have back surgery and Tracy Wray and Tina Cates have filled in, even on short notice, in several classes. These ladies have made Sunday School for the children a priority in their busy schedules this quarter.

Now, in June, we begin a new quarter and some of these teachers need a break. It is beneficial for teachers to have a quarter on and then a quarter off so that they can attend Pastor's Bible Class. Wouldn't YOU like to try your hand at teaching a class this summer? Ask these women, and they will tell you that they have been blessed by the time they spend instructing the children. If you would like to let the Lord bless you with this opportunity, do tell Jerri Shertzer, our Education Committee Chairperson. The material this summer will be Concordia Publishing House's curriculum, *I Spy Salvation's Story*. Concordia describes it this way:

A fallen tower, a basket in a river, a small crown, burning coals...what can it all mean? Young investigators will gather clues, dig into the Bible and put all of the pieces together to unearth God's plan of salvation. With *I Spy Salvation's Story*, kids will discover Old and New Testament Bible stories that they will *never* forget.

Let Jerri know right away if you want to join this discovery team!



**The
investigating
starts June 5!**

Unity Sunday



May 26

**Sunday School 9:00am
Worship 10:00am (potluck following)**

Shepherd's Care Mothers' Day Out News

April was full of learning fun at preschool. We continued to rejoice at the resurrection of our Savior as we reflected on the Easter message and extended the story to learn about Thomas, who had to be convinced that the Lord was truly alive. Then we learned how Jesus sent his disciples into the world to tell everyone that Jesus was their Savior. We learned that Jesus gives us that job as well, and we practiced ways to tell others. We even practiced playing "Jesus Loves Me" on our handbells. Since our Lord came for people all over the world, we learned to say "Hello" in several languages and had Quesadillas for snack one day. Then we heard how Jesus used stories to teach his friends lessons when we listened to the story about the prodigal son. We even had a party with our streamers to celebrate when the lost son came home. We acted out our last story this month when we played Jacob's dream. Jacob slept on the ground as our angels went up and down the staircase to God. We all cheered when God told Jacob He still loved him and would continue to watch over him.

We celebrated spring by learning the parts of a plant and making flower suncatchers for our windows. As we played in the water table, we investigated whether items would float or sink. We predicted and then tested our predictions to see if our hypothesis was correct. In math, we sorted items into groups and played a number identification game with fly swatters. That game also introduced us to tally marks as we kept score. When we heard how the Prodigal Son spent his money unwisely, we studied the value of 4 coins and the wise use of money - sharing, saving and spending.

In music we sang "I Doubt It" with Thomas and sang to Jacob about how "Nothin, Nothin, Absolutely Nothin" could take God's love away from him. We decided we had better "Get Up, Get Up, Get Up and Tell the World" if we were going to be like the disciples and do the job Jesus left for us to do. Our pig puppets even helped us sing that song. We also sang a song about colors to help us practice following directions.

During May we will be ending this school year. We have a trip to Pizza Hut planned for mid May when we study food groups. We're hoping to have a dentist visit one day when we study dental health. Water day will be the end of May, and we'll sing a few end of the year songs for parents one morning. Check out the calendar for dates and watch folders for detail notes.



Do you know any parents of pre-school aged kids looking for a program to help with social readiness that teaches their child about Jesus? Tell them about our MDO!



**Shepherd of Peace
Lutheran Church**

449 Millwood Circle
PO Box 13143
Maumelle, Arkansas 72113
Pastor: Neil Vanderbush

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

There's a place for you at SOP!

Shepeace.com



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

Special Days in May

- | | |
|---|---|
| 5-1 Ken Aeverman (B)
Philip and James, Apostles | 5-19 Pentecost |
| 5-4 Carolyn Drane (B) | 5-21 Matt Schroeder (B) |
| 5-5 Tina Cates (B)
Matt & Ashley Schroeder (A,6) | 5-24 Carl Sutherland (B) |
| 5-6 Veronica Shepherd (B) | 5-25 Michael & Audrey Flakoll (A,11)
Jakob Heintzen (B, 3) |
| 5-9 Ascension of Our Lord | 5-26 Barrett Davenport (B, 1) |
| 5-11 Stephanie Anderson (B)
Brad Cardinal (B)
Betty Weaver (B) | 5-27 Memorial Day |
| 5-12 Mothers' Day | 5-28 Tony Wray (B) |
| 5-15 Fred & Melissa Bishop (A, 20)
Leroy Mahnken (B)
Steve McDonald (B) | 5-29 Ed & Beth Helmstetter (A,42)
Steve & Kelly McDonald (A,14)
Dale & Billie Palmer (A,64) |
| 5-17 Les Browning (B) | 5-31 Visit of Mary to Elizabeth |
| 5-18 F'lar Ausburn (B, 17) | |



May 2013

Shepherd of Peace Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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