



How Much is Too Much?

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Special points of interest:

- Ash Wednesday service is at 7:00pm February 13.
- Mid-Week Lent Services begin Feb. 20th, 6:30pm w/supper to follow
- Service Volunteer List now on page 5!

Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. So they gave a dinner for Him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with Him at table. Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples (he who was about to betray Him), said, 'Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?'" (John 12:1-5)

Can you picture this scene in your mind? It's about a week before the Crucifixion (although only Jesus knows that), and Christ is visiting at the home of His good friends, Lazarus and his sisters. Lazarus is there at the table with Jesus, being served by Martha, who has prepared and now sets before them one of her feasts for which she was undoubtedly famous. But where is Mary? She should be helping her sister! Instead she is kneeling before Jesus with a pint of expensive perfume, and she pours the whole bottle on His feet.



The Bible says, "The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume." You can imagine it was! You can see the heads swivel. "Where is that aroma coming from?" And then the gasps as they realize what she's done. This is not wealthy family, after all. "Isn't this a little excessive," they wonder. But it's Judas who speaks – and not at all favorably: "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?"

Judas and Mary were not on the same wavelength at all. For Mary, nothing was enough for her Lord. This extravagant act could only hint at the depth of devotion in her heart. Judas, on the other hand, was devoted only to Judas. Verse 6 enlightens us: *He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it.*"

Would it be too offensive to say that we, too, are thieves? Have we ever withheld from the Lord what was His – for isn't it all His? Aren't we also deceivers at times, pretending to have concern for others when we really have only our own interests at heart? Mary loved and worshiped her Lord even before she knew He would give His life to save her from her sins. We who are on the other side of Calvary must have an even greater sense of gratitude. Let us ask the Lord's forgiveness for our selfish and cold hearts and His enablement to give of ourselves and our resources without restraint.

Be a Valentine?

“This is how we
know what love is:

Jesus Christ laid
down His life for
us. And we ought to
lay down our lives
for our brothers.” ~

1 John 3:16



Valentine's Day is upon us again and the all too familiar phrase, “Will you be my valentine?” is plastered on an unending sea of cards. As men and women, boys and girls, advance to the counters of superstores, card shops, florists and jewelers to answer this simple call in classrooms and relationships, we must stop and consider where it came from.

In A.D. 496, Pope Gelasius in Rome marked February 14th as a day of celebration and remembrance in honor of a priest martyred some 226 years earlier. Under the reign of Emperor Claudius II, Fr. Valentinus was beaten and beheaded for bringing aid to and caring for those being persecuted in a Roman prison for their faith. He was killed for selflessly living out his faith in Christ Jesus, otherwise known as loving his neighbor.

Also in the middle of February in many Roman states a common observance celebrating the natural attraction between male and female was well underway. This would often lead to the exchange of gifts and tokens of fondness between the sexes. Looking back, many from today would call this “love”.

The old European cultures would see a melding of the two celebrations, and we today still see the mix as we observe February 14th. But I can't help pondering the question of what it means to ask, “Will you be my valentine?” Do the plumpy hearts and candy we dish out convey love? If so, in what sense? John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him would not perish but have eternal life.” If this is a definition of love we would use, one that actively gives of self, even to death on a cross for you, then maybe being a valentine would be less about romantic attraction and more about sacrifice and giving of self for the other. Then again, maybe in our romantic attractions, especially between husbands and wives, boys and girls, we could use a bit more of this type of love. Who knows, maybe this year we could have some true “Valentines”.

Happy Valentine's!



Facing the Cross

It's February and Lent is nearly upon us. It will catch up to us early this year with Ash Wednesday on Wednesday, the 13th. As the days grow longer (thus where we get the name Lent, from the Latin *lenten*, which means “lengthening”) our opportunities to prepare together grow as well.

The service on Ash Wednesday at 7:00pm kicks off a journey that we will take Facing the Cross. In Luke 9:51 we read, *When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.* Jesus was going to Jerusalem for a single purpose, that He knew and understood, to face our cross due to our sin. He boldly took this journey for our sake that we may have life. Our journey this Lent will be a personal reflection of facing the cross daily as Christians, as we prepare to remember the trial, crucifixion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ during Holy Week, and celebrate boldly His glorious resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Each Wednesday evening during Lent at 6:30pm, we will journey together in worship, with a light meal to follow. The journey will continue on Sunday mornings in the Adult Bible Class between services and on Thursdays at 10:30am, as we face the cross in our study of the Word. And each day, as individual followers of Christ, we can face the cross in prayer and contemplation. Join us on this journey, that we may together seek Him by way of the cross.

Lenten In-Gathering to Benefit Sioux Indian Children's Ministry

This year our Sunday School children will be gathering items to go to Pastor Andrew Utecht's after school children's ministry program in Parmlee, South Dakota. Pastor Utecht, an LCMS pastor at Lord's Warriors Lutheran Church, uses his church to provide a warm and safe gathering place for Sioux Indian children who often go home to an unheated house with no adult supervision. At the church the children are given a hot meal and homework is completed. Then they are given the opportunity to hear a Bible story and do a craft to go with it.

One of our Summer Servant Saturday's this year will be used to fill cloth backpacks with items for the children who participate in this program. Each Sunday our children will focus on bringing one item to go in the backpacks. All congregational members are most welcome to help us with this collection. The items are listed below. There will be a box in the Narthex during Lent to collect the items.

Additionally, volunteers are needed to complete the simple sewing project of constructing the cloth backpacks to hold the supplies. Evelyn Chagnon and Beth Helmsstetter are cutting the fabric and providing kits with instructions for sewing the bags. We are hoping to make at least 40 kits. If you can sew a straight line, the ladies say this project will be easily completed. If you can help, please contact Beth or Evelyn. The backpacks need to be completed by May 15th.

In-gathering Items

- February 17th - Elmer's Glue and/or Glue sticks (washable)
- February 24th - Scissors - not the blunt kind - for a child ages 10-14
- March 3rd - Packs of construction paper - assorted colors
- March 10th - Colored art pens (felt marker type - thin or thick points)
- March 17th - Small jars acrylic paint - any color
- March 24th - Colored pencils and small pencil sharpeners



Reminders for Thrivent Members

Each benefit member (16 yrs. and older) of Thrivent Financial has "Choice Dollars" awarded to them each year. If you do not designate an organization to receive your "Choice Dollars", the money just returns to Thrivent. You may designate any Lutheran Church or school as well as other organizations to receive your "Choice Dollars" monthly. Last year we offered assistance to members if they wanted to direct their "Choice Dollars" but were not familiar with computers. You must once again communicate your choice for 2013. The funds will not automatically go to your choice from last year. The process is quite simple on the computer. Log onto your Thrivent account at www.thrivent.com. Then click "My Thrivent" and a red button that says "Direct Choice Dollars." You can type in the name of our church, another church, or Lutheran school. You can also browse the eligible organizations to find where you want your money to go. The deadline for this year is March 31st. If you would like help with this process, please contact Mrs. Carol, and she'll walk you through it. Don't miss this opportunity to benefit an organization of your choice.

There is also an important vote coming up in March about extending Thrivent's focus to all Christians instead of only Lutherans. Make sure you watch your mail or email for your ballot. If you want additional information about this vote, talk to Ed Helmsstetter or Carol Mayerhoff.



"Little Children,
let us not love in
word or talk but in
deed and truth."

~1 John 3:18



Council Corner: Updates from Your Church Council

The Church Council is back into the swing of things in 2013. If you have any items of business that you would like addressed or have any questions about Shepherd of Peace business, please feel free to contact me or any member of the Council. We welcome your questions, comments and feedback! ~ Michael Flakoll, Executive Director



The lay ministers had their monthly meeting on 1.10.13. We discussed ministry opportunities, discussed and prayed for our members who are sick, shut-in and in need. Our goal of starting the benevolence committee was discussed. We went into the nave of the church and Pastor gave us instruction on his expectations for our service on Sunday mornings. ~ Marc Higgins, Lay Minister

Property thanks everyone who helped with cutting up the broken trees from the snow storm. We will have the city come pick up the mess as soon as they can. There are a few minor projects going on either in planning stages or about to get started. It won't be long before we will start landscaping and lawn mowing teams for the spring and summer. If you are interested in volunteering please let Jason Smith or any of the other Property Board members know. Please pray for those on the Property Board as we work to provide facilities for the furthering of God's mission. ~ Jason Smith, Property

In our continued support of The Wades, missionaries to the Dungan people of Kyrgyzstan, we need to remember especially include Mike in our daily prayers. The Wades came back to USA during the Christmas holidays, not just to visit with family and friends, but also so that Mike could undergo a thorough medical diagnostic work up. Their scheduled plan to return to Kyrgyzstan on January 9 has been postponed. Mike has been put on medical leave until his symptoms have abated. In Kyrgyzstan he has no access to specialists, certain therapies and some of the recommended medications. We shall also continue to pray for the Tian Shan Mission Society, as they continue to share Christ and His glorious message in Mike & Ann's absence.

Here at Shepherd of Peace, we are currently focusing on preparing CraftPaks (kid's backpacks filled with craft supplies) for children living on an Sioux Indian Reservation in Rosebud, South Dakota. (see page 3, *Lenten Ingathering*) In addition to the items that our children will be gathering, we are asking for an assortment of craft items that you may have left over from a project...you know, that stuff that you'll probably never use, but it is too good to just throw it away! Glitter, acrylic paints, colorful felt squares, printed scrapbook paper, rhinestones, decorative beads...the kids in Rosebud will give these "forgotten in the closet" treasures a new purpose and give you some free shelf space! ~Evelyn Chagnon, Missions

“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.”

~Romans 12:9-10



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

Steve and Kelly McDonald moved to Maumelle in 2004 with their children Evan and Morgan. They relocated to this area from Bartlett, TN. Kelly grew up in MA and Steve is originally from Virginia. Steve is in management with Timex and Kelly is a 2nd grade teacher at Landmark Elementary. They both coach youth sports here in Maumelle. Evan is 10 years old and in the 5th grade at Crystal Hill Elementary. He plays football, baseball, and basketball and he enjoys drawing and building stuff. Morgan is 9 years old and in the 3rd grade. She plays soccer and basketball and enjoys reading and playing outside. Both of them enjoy playing with their dog Copper. As a family, they enjoy anything outdoors, especially camping and trout fishing.



Church Mice

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February Service Volunteers

	8:00	10:30
Lay Minister	Marc Higgins	Chuck Fandrei
Acolyte	Sarah Shepherd	Sydney Wray
Ushers	L. Mahnken & T. Wray	F. Ausburn & J. Smith
Comm. Prep	Hurley & Shertzer	Ausburn
Comm. Assist	Mark Filter	Michael Flakoll





Valentine's Weekend Parents' Night Out

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is sponsoring a Parents' Night Out in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, February 16th from 5:00 – 10:00 p.m. This event is a fund raiser to benefit Summer Servant Saturdays at Shepherd of Peace. Mrs. Carol plans to meet monthly with our children again this summer to do community service projects and these projects require funding. In order to provide funds for operating expenses, Mrs. Carol and Mrs. Jerri Shertzer will supervise a Parents' Night Out event on Valentines Week End. Drop your kids off at church for an evening of dinner (pizza, fruit and juice), movie, popcorn, and playtime. The fee is \$25 per child for the entire evening. Advance registration with Mrs. Carol, cmayerhoff@yahoo.com, would be helpful. Our limit is 25 children so reserve your space. If we see we have many children, additional staff will be provided. The event is not limited to SOP children. Take your Valentine out for dinner and a movie, and benefit our Children's Ministry Programs at the same time. Thrivent Heartland Chapter Funds will be used to match half of the monies earned at this event.

“And now these
three remain:
faith, hope, and
love. But the
greatest of these
is love.” ~
1 Cor. 13:13

Pancake Supper

Shrove Tuesday, February 12th
All-You-Can Eat Pancakes
5:30pm-6:30pm



Saturday, February 23rd
8:30am

Men's Breakfast

Mid-Week Teens: Beyond the Music

Thursday night's have been an awesome opportunity for the ShePeace Youth to hang out and discuss the issues Christian Teens face every day. They have spent the last few weeks discussing their identities, that is, focusing on what it means to truly be not of this world, but set apart *“For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”* Ephesians 2:10.

With this study coming to a close, the teens are gearing up to discuss today's Christian music, and it's connection to the Bible. They will be answering the question: *Where is that verse or idea in the Bible?* Each week will focus on a song selected by the youth members and written by a contemporary Christian group/ singer.

If you are interested in joining these exciting discussions, bring a song and a Bible each Thursday night from 6:00pm-7:00pm.



Shepherd's Care Mothers' Day Out News

We began Bible lessons in January by becoming the kings who followed the star to bring gifts to the young Savior. Then we travelled with Mary and Joseph to the temple where they discovered they left Jesus discussing scriptures with the teachers (Mrs. Liz and Mrs. Rene). After that, we practiced following as we learned how Jesus called some helpers. Finally we washed each other's feet following in Jesus' example of service to others. All these stories became real for the children as they acted out the story and supplied the dialogue for the characters. We sang songs as well to encourage us to "Come Meet Jesus" and "Get up, Get up and Tell the World."

We did some "cooking" this month as well. We made "snow" to put in our sensory table and were amazed to watch it grow around our fingers when we added water. We also made gingerbread men to go with stories we read to compare different versions. Those tricky cookies thought they could run away from us when they escaped from the oven, but we were trickier when we found them in the nap room and ate them for snack. In math we graphed where we took the first bite from our gingerbread men and discovered that by far most people bit the head first. We also graphed our predictions as to whether the groundhog will see his shadow on Feb. 1.

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. There are also plans to "ice skate" on wax paper soon. We've started observing our new caterpillars as they grow in their cups. Soon we will transfer them to their cage, and we'll be looking for a warm day to release them once they become butterflies.

February will bring an early Mardi Gras and the Valentines' party so get ready to catch beads and decorate a "mailbox." There is also an opportunity for a Parent's Night out as Mrs. Carol and some helpers are doing a fund raiser to benefit Children's ministry at Shepherd of Peace on Feb. 16th. Five hours of babysitting activities plus supper for \$25 per child. We'd love to have your kids spend the evening with us from 5:00 till 10:00 while you have a night out. Reserve your spot.



“For God so loved
the world that He
gave His only Son,
that whoever
believes in Him
should not perish
but have eternal
life.” ~ John 3:16



There's a place for you at SOP!

Shepherd of Peace Lutheran Church

449 Millwood Circle
PO Box 13143
Maumelle, Arkansas 72113

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

Rev. Neil Vanderbush, Pastor

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

facebook

Special Days in February



- 2-1 Payton Cates (B, 13)
- 2-2 Presentation of Our Lord
Danielle Ausburn (B)
Lisa Nazzaro (B)
- 2-3 Bob & Mary Kling (A, 61)
Sarah Wray (B, 10)
- 2-4 Melissa Bishop (B)
- 2-5 Ken Quimby (B)
- 2-7 Jennifer Anderson (B)
- 2-8 Carolyn Leisman (B)
- 2-10 Transfiguration of Our Lord
Gene & Veronica Shepherd (A, 22)
- 2-11 Phyllis Christiansen (B)
- 2-13 Ash Wednesday
- 2-14 Valentine's Day
- 2-16 Kelly McDonald (B)
- 2-18 President's Day
Elijah Weigand (B, 1)
- 2-27 Hugh & Carolyn Purnell (A, 33)
Robert Tschiemer (B)



February 2013

Shepherd of Peace Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																								
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