

The Shepherd's Voice

VOLUME 24, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2013

Who Would Have Thought?

In an election year like the one just past, it's pretty hard for a politician seeking an office to keep a secret. His adversaries may often go back far into his past to find some family indiscretion that can be built into an argument that that candidate is unfit for office. Sometimes those "facts" bring about the downfall of that person's candidacy, and his career in politics is ended. His desire to be a leader in government is quashed. A leader must have an impeccable pedigree, right?

Well, let's think about Jesus' ancestry. Maybe you've been in a Bible study that focused on a hero of faith – one like Abraham or his son Isaac or his grandson Jacob. Maybe it's been David, that "Man after God's own heart" (1Samuel 13:14). You've been reading along in your Bible and find out that there are some chinks in their armor. Did it disappoint you to find out that Abraham lied because he was scared and that his son followed in his footsteps committing the same sin because of the same lack of faith? And Jacob! All that cheating and deceit that displayed a similar lack of trust that God had their lives under His control! And David! He was an adulterer and a murderer! How could God call him a "Man after His own heart"?

Wow! We think. These guys were terrible! We might even say they're worse than we are. Who would have thought that God would choose these imperfect men and women to be Jesus' ancestors? But, you see, it's not about us; it's about Jesus. He is the One Who is perfect. He is the One Who is fit to rule over us. He has called all of us, sinful though we are, to be His servants. After all, isn't that what Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, and all the other heroes of faith were? God's servants?

We won't find a perfect political candidate. We won't find a perfect Anybody. What we will find is a faithful, perfect Savior Who lived the perfect life in our place, Who calls us to serve Him in many different venues, Who forgives our sins and restores us to ser-

Jesus Mission to Serve

With 2013 upon us, we can look forward with eager expectation to what God has in store. Much has happened in the past year and it is good that we give our Lord thanks for His many blessings. Whether for the ability to rejoice at our highs, or being carried mercifully through our lows, we remember that we are connected to our Lord Jesus Christ and that has made the difference in everything.

Since we are connected to our Lord and one another, and that we have the opportunity to have His Word and grow in it, we now must consider what it means to serve faithfully in His name. The metaphor of a growing plant or tree was used last month as we contemplated our Christian discipleship in following Jesus. We are not to be dormant, but vibrant, drinking faithfully from His Word to grow, and ultimately, to bear fruit. In the Gospel of Luke there are two teachings our Lord Jesus uses to help us understand what it means to bear fruit as a Christian.

The first comes from Luke 6:43-45:

"For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are

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Jesus Mission (cont'd from pg 1)

grapes picked from a bramble bush. The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

The Christian is only good because he or she is connected in and with our Lord Jesus Christ. The life of Christ changes our growth and our fruit. We bear good fruit, or that which Christ yields in and through us, because of His Spirit dwelling richly in us. Our service then reflects His call for our lives. Examples can be seen dramatically in Romans 12, but we can easily remember that the works of service in Christ always abound and abide in faith, hope and love. (See also 1 Corinthians 13)

The second comes from Luke 13:6-9

And [Jesus] told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?'"

And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Here the Christian is reminded that there is expectation in our life with Christ. For many of us, we love being called His servants until we are asked to actually serve! How sad is this! Yes, our Lord said that "the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve" (Mark 10:45), and as His followers, or disciples, we are to do the same. What does this look like? In simple terms for the individual it looks like faithfulness as children of God, members of His body, as parents, children, employers, employees, neighbors, etc. We fulfill these roles in the love Christ gives and do not neglect one another. We bear fruits in repentance and righteousness, as is fitting to God's Word. (See also Gal 5, Eph 5 & Phil 1). Corporately we are faithful at meeting the needs of the Gospel in our midst, in our community and area, and then out and away from us to the ends of the earth. That we take the mission of Christ Jesus serious, making disciples of all nations, baptizing and teaching in accordance with His good will. That we take serious our gatherings and fellowship, tithes and offerings, receiving His Word and Sacraments and remain faithful in prayer. That we forgive one another and share the peace that can only be found in Christ. This is faithful fruit. None of this is easy, but it is our calling and accomplished only in the might of the Holy Spirit.

Thank you all for the many blessings and well wishes for our family this

Christmas. We thank God for you all and hope that this year proves to be a continual blessing from His hand for Shepherd of Peace.

~ The Vanderbush Family

As disciples of Christ at Shepherd of Peace we give thanks to God for being connected to Jesus and one another, having the ability to grow in His Word and to serve faithfully in His name. I pray that it affects us all to our very core and in this new year we earnestly seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness in accordance with His Spirit, for there is no other way.

To God be praise and glory, Who alone has done what we cannot do. Who is faithful and merciful, abounding in steadfast love.

Rejoicing in His service with you,
Pastor Neil Vanderbush



January 2013 Worship Service Volunteers

	8:00	10:30
Lay Minister	Mark Filter	Tony Wray
Acolyte	Sarah Shepherd	Megan Tschiemer
Ushers	C. Fandrei & W. Creasman	J. Hudson & M. Maguire
Comm. Prep	Mahnken & Wheat	Sutherland
Comm. Assist	Marc Higgins	Felix Cates

2013 Offering Envelopes

The 2013 offering envelopes can be found on the table in the Narthex. If you do not have envelopes assigned to you, but would like some, please speak with Carol Smith or Pastor Vanderbush. Please note your new envelope number will most likely differ from 2012.

Some of the envelopes worth noting are the Lutheran Witness envelope and the Designated Offering envelopes. The Lutheran Witness is a monthly synodical magazine. If you are interested in a subscription (or renewal), simply place \$14.00 in your Lutheran Witness envelope and give it to an usher or Dani prior to Jan 20th.

The acting treasurer wanted to make everyone aware that the Designated Offering envelope is a great place to put your Ablaze mission offering! There are several of these envelopes distributed throughout the year.

Speaking of Envelopes...

While we are on the subject of envelopes, the ShePeace Youth will have a table in the narthex over the month of January filled with envelopes. Written on each envelope will be various dollar amounts. If you would like to donate one of these values toward the 2013 National Youth Gathering, place that value into the envelope during January and give it to Dani or Pastor. This donation is tax deductible and will appear on your first quarter offering statement.

The youth are very thankful for the continued support of the congregation and friends of the congregation as they work toward the goal of \$10,500 to pay for their trip. They continue to offer the Rent-A-Youth program to the congregation and will be hosting "The First Annual Chili Cook-off" in February (details on this event will appear in February's Shepherd's Voice).

For any additional information on the envelope fundraiser or the Rent-A-Youth program, contact Dani at the church office.

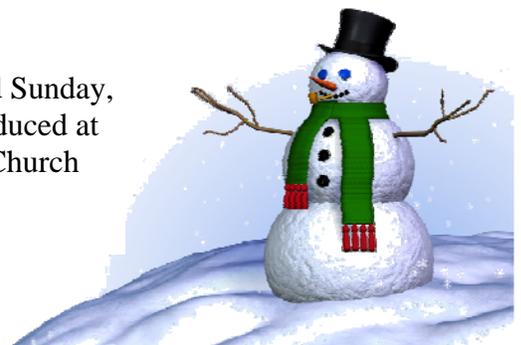
Installation of the 2013 Church Council

The 2013 Shepherd of Peace Church Council will officially be installed Sunday, January 13 directly after the 8:00 am service and will be formally introduced at the beginning of the 10:30 am service. For a complete list of the 2013 Church Council, go to our website (Shepeace.com).



"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. "

2 Corinthians 9:7



Council Corner: Updates from Your Church Council

Happy New Year from the SOP Church Council! In 2013, we will begin our focus on the congregation approved Task Force to review our church governance. Michael Flakoll, Executive Director

Our usual focus on the spiritual needs of the parish and our own personal lives. Pastor and I came up with an idea put in motion at that meeting. We are forming a benevolence committee that will be LM lead but open to the members of the parish to join. We will look from ministry opportunities with disadvantage people that not only come our way, but we will reach out to them. We will have speakers in the future, like the head Immerse Arkansas and the head of Soar. Marc Higgins, Lay Ministers

Education will continue to work with Carol on Children's Ministry, and Danielle on getting our youth ready for their rally this summer. We will also work with Pastor on an evaluation of our Church library needs as well as an assessment of our adult education program. Jerri Shertzer, Education



"I'm just really excited to be in this position and I'm looking forward to kicking around some ideas at the first council meeting." Ben Weigand, Church Growth

Property Board's focus thanks to December's storm is cleaning up the church grounds. We have already removed some of the damaged limbs but many more remain. Jason Smith, Property

"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Colossians 3:17

Let's Go Skating!

Shepherd of Peace will be going to Arkansas Skatium on Saturday, January 12th at 2:00 pm. The ice skating rink is open from 2:00-4:00 pm and the roller rink is open from 1:00-5:00 pm. "Ultimate Admission" is \$12 per person and gives you admission and skate rental for both rinks. For a complete price list for individual rink and skate rentals, you can visit their website at arkansasskatium.com.

Everyone is invited to this event! You are never too old or too young for an "All Skate!" For directions or carpooling, contact the church office.



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

Leroy and I are life-long Lutherans and attend every Sunday unless out of town or sick. We are the parents of three children (two daughters and one son) who are all grown, married, and live close by. We have six grandchildren (five grandsons and one granddaughter). Leroy is a retired North Little Rock Fire Captain after 26 years of service. I work at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) as a program administrator for the Obstetrics/Gynecology Residency and Maternal-Fetal Medicine Fellowship Programs. I just recently obtained my national certification as a Training Administrator for Graduate Medical Education. Leroy and his brother (who is also retired) like to go to estate sales and say they have a successful day when they don't buy anything. He takes care of the maintenance around our house and helps around the church property. When he's not doing that, he's in his lounge chair reading a good book on his Nook. When I'm not at work or spending time with my mother, or with the family, I like to write, do artwork, play at the piano, or just sit and do Sudoku puzzles. Sometimes I like quiet time and a good book though. Our favorite thing to do is to go to the lake and fish, which we don't get to do very often. Leroy does take the grandsons out whenever he can though.

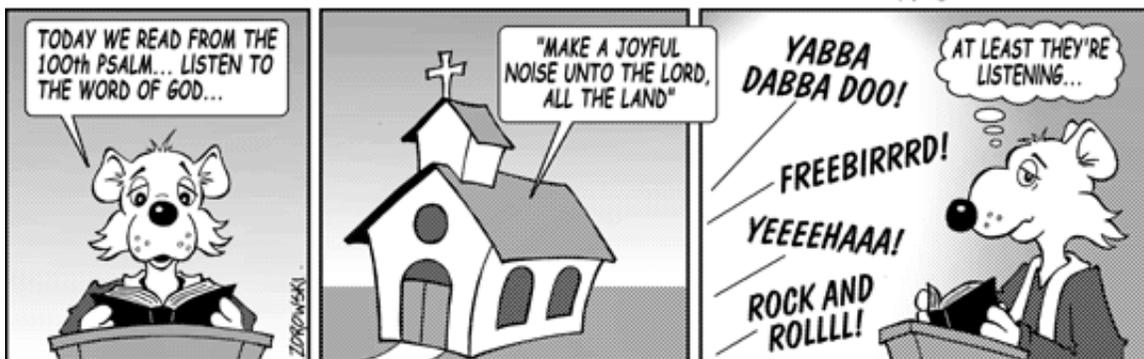
We also like to travel. Leroy goes with me to work-related conferences in various locations throughout the United States, and we typically include a little vacation before or after the conferences. We also like to go on cruises and have been on two so far and ready to go again. We love our church and church family and are proud to be charter members of Shepherd of Peace Lutheran Church.

~Leroy & Esther



Church Mice

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New Classes, New Quarter, New Partners

In January we will be starting a new quarter in our Life with Christ Sunday School program. Thanks so much to Beth Helmstetter and Tracy Wray for teaching last quarter and helping with the Christmas preparations. We are so blessed at Shepherd of Peace to have dedicated teachers who share themselves with our children. The new quarter continues with lessons on Christ's earthly ministry. Jerri Shertzer and Danielle Ausburn will continue teaching the two upper classes while Amanda Dorsett and Jeanette Hurley begin their "quarter on" in the two lower classes. Thanks, ladies for your willingness to serve your Lord, by being there for these children.

One new addition beginning Jan. 6th is our Toddler and Parent class taught by Holly Vanderbush. Tina Cates will also be helping with this class. This is a new endeavor for us, and Holly has graciously taken on the challenge of formulating this new ministry. The class is for 2 and 3 year olds and a parent. They will meet in the Fellowship hall classroom each Sunday after opening at 9:15. Holly will have activities for the parents to do with their children in class and at home to help the children learn more about their Savior in an age appropriate setting.

*Toddler and Parent Class
starts January 6th!!*

Partly because of our new class and partly because of new children, our Sunday School is in need of a few more Prayer Partners. The Prayer Partner ministry has helped form some great faith based relationships between young people and adults in our congregation. As we enroll new students in our Sunday School, we want to assign them an adult prayer partner. No special skills are needed, just a desire to daily lift a child up to God in prayer. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please see Carol Mayerhoff.



Thank You

The staff of Shepherd of Peace thanks you very much for the monetary gifts and yummy treats given to us this year. Your love and caring make this a wonderful place not only to work, but to be a part of in worship and sharing God's word. We appreciate the opportunity to share in the work this congregation is doing for the community of Maumelle and the community of Christ.

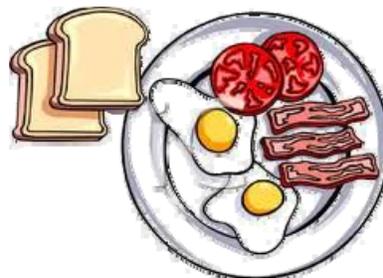
Love in Christ!

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, January 26th

8:30am

(The youth will be preparing breakfast in the fellowship hall for the men.)



Shepherd's Care Mothers' Day Out News



December at preschool was spent “waiting for Jesus’ birthday.” We heard the story beginning with Mary being visited by an angel, through her trip to see her cousin, the trip to Bethlehem, and ending with the stable birth, the singing angels, and the surprised shepherds. We made Advent loops to help us count down the days and hung an ornament for each day on our Advent tree at school. We played the story when we dressed up and walked through the entire story. By the time we had our costume day, the kids did quite well with the dialog from the story by themselves with only a little questioning by Mrs. Carol. They were proud to say, “We know this *whole* story.” Feeling the hay, putting it in the manger and learning songs to “Make room for the baby Jesus” helped make the timeless story real for them. The day the angels sang to the shepherds in our story we even made cheese angels to eat for our snack.



We continue working with new letters and learning that letters have a *name* and make a certain *sound*. We’ve added Rr and Bb to our letter wall. Our sensory table has been filled with pinto beans this month and we have found items that start with Bb *buried* in the *beans*. In math we continued to work with repeated patterns on the calendar each day and when we made our Advent chains. We also worked with matching like items and number recognition as we played the 12 Days of Christmas match.



There was some new “food” for our housekeeping center so we baked and decorated cookies there and worked on playing cooperatively. We are working on using words to express our needs instead of grabbing what we want. That is a hard lesson. We also used raking leaves in our playground as a chance to use teamwork and get the job done. So far we have four big bags done and God keeps giving us many more leaves to help us practice this skill.



School resumes after the holidays on January 8th at 9:05. We wish everyone a wonderful celebration of our Lord’s birth and a Joyous New Year in the Son.



**SHEPHERD OF PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Maumelle, Arkansas 72113

Phone: 501-851-4546
Email: shepeace@sbcglobal.net

Rev. Neil Vanderbush, Pastor
pastor@shepeace.com

*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

Special Days in January

- | | | | |
|------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1-2 | Frank Densberger (B) | Ron & Jerri Shertzler (A, 24) | |
| 1-3 | Emily Cardinal (B, 6) | Rick Sutherland (B) | |
| | Nick Greb (B) | 1-23 | Arlene Behmer (B) |
| | Leroy & Esther Mahnken (A, 37) | | Erik Sutherland (B) |
| 1-4 | Joe & Pat Wheat (A, 33) | 1-25 | Gloria Cates (B) |
| 1-6 | Evelyn Wilbern (B) | | |
| 1-7 | Felix & Gloria Cates (A, 30) | | |
| | Mark & Sharon Hillemann (A, 45) | | |
| | John Nazzaro (B) | | |
| 1-10 | Mari Flemmons (B) | | |
| | Matt Nazzaro (B) | | |
| 1-13 | Emily Tschiemer (B, 14) | | |
| 1-17 | Aden Vanderbush (B, 10) | | |
| 1-20 | Dale Zimmerman (B) | | |
| | Sloane Smith (B, 3) | | |
| 1-21 | Sophia Greb (B, 4) | | |



January 2013

Shepherd of Peace Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> December 12 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 </div>		<u>1</u> Happy New Year!!!	<u>2</u> 7:00 PM Choir	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>6</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:15 AM Family Bible Hour 10:30 AM Blended Worship	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u> 9:05 AM - 2:00 PM MDO 4:30 PM Jr. Confirmation	<u>9</u> 6:30 PM Property Board	<u>10</u> 9:05 AM - 2:00 PM MDO 10:30 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Mid-Week Teens 7:00 PM Lay Ministers	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u> 2:00 PM All Skating Day
<u>13</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:15 AM Family Bible Hour 10:30 AM Blended Worship Installation of Officers	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u> 9:05 AM - 2:00 PM MDO 4:30 PM Jr. Confirmation 6:30 PM Bunco Babes	<u>16</u> 7:00 PM Choir	<u>17</u> 9:05 AM - 2:00 PM MDO 10:30 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Mid-Week Teens 7:00 PM Church Council	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>20</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:15 AM Family Bible Hour 10:30 AM Blended Worship	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u> 9:05 AM - 2:00 PM MDO 4:30 PM Jr. Confirmation	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u> 9:05 AM - 2:00 PM MDO 10:30 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Mid-Week Teens	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u> 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast
<u>27</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:15 AM Family Bible Hour 10:30 AM Blended Worship	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u> 9:05 AM - 2:00 PM MDO 4:30 PM Jr. Confirmation	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u> 9:05 AM - 2:00 PM MDO 10:30 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Mid-Week Teens	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> February 13 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 </div>	