

The Shepherd's Staff

to inform and encourage



May 2013

A note to our visitors:

Thanks for worshiping with us and subscribing to our newsletter!

For many, Sunday mornings is about the only time in their very busy week to just "chill". Maybe your routine is to sleep in. Maybe its to read the news with a cup of joe. It's a time to relax and not think about all the things on our work and family to-do lists, just for a couple hours.

But I want to encourage you to think of Sunday mornings a different way. I know it's thought of as the week-end but think of it instead as the weeks beginning. After all, most of our monthly calendars start the week with Sunday and there's a great reason to think of it that way.

Starting the morning of the first day of the week in close contact with God gives you a new beginning and sets you up for a great successful week "in the trenches" of our daily lives.

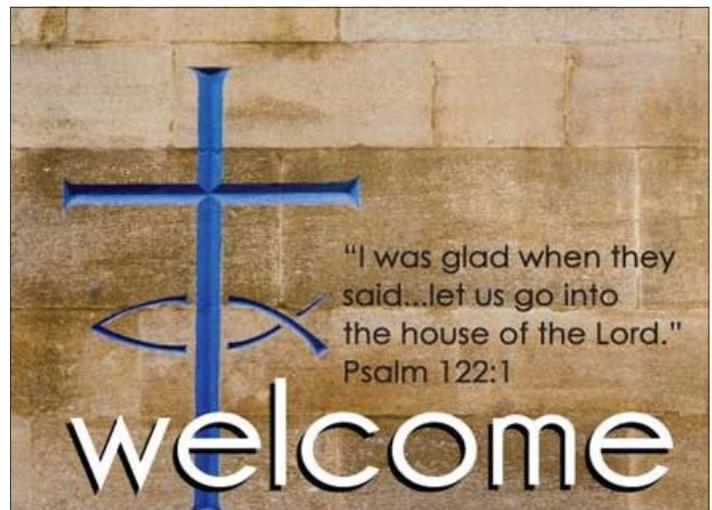
Our sermons and services on Sunday remind us that God is always there for us in everything we do – and gives us an important reassurance that Jesus has paid for all of our sins in full and we have nothing to fear, ever again. Eternal life is guaranteed without our needing to do a thing to earn it.

Trusting God to take away doubt and fear are keys to a Christian's life – we couldn't cope without that knowledge. While we may worship God anywhere, only in our church services do we hear His powerful Word preached to strengthen us in faith.

Think of coming to church Sunday morning as a way to charge your soul's batteries, or like watering a plant, not just with water, but with nutrients to grow and flourish!

And remember we have services at 10:30am – so you can still sleep in a bit if you want! I look forward to seeing you again soon – look me up when you're here!

- Rick Wilking, Congregational Assistant



I'm tired of all the bad news.

Can God help me see a solution to all the problems?



Have you noticed lately the newspaper headlines and the lead stories on the evening news? They don't really change much over the years. Plenty of ink is spilled about wars, murders, rapes, or other forms of violent crime. Our eyes watch

tornados, floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes unfold before us on the airwaves. Life can often look pretty bleak in many parts of the world.

But the problems aren't just in other parts of the world. Sometimes the hurt, the pain, and the tragedies we often read or hear about actually invade our own personal lives. Being on the receiving end can lead us to blurt out in frustration:

“Why are my neighbors so unfriendly? It's almost as if they take a grumpy pill each morning.”

“My marriage has been in a rut for months, and the possibility of it changing seems hopeless. Some days I wished I'd never walked down the aisle.”

“Why did my mom have to develop cancer? She has been a health nut her whole life. It doesn't seem fair.”

“The kids are driving me nuts! It feels as though I have completely lost control.”

“I'm so lonely that some days I honestly feel that I am the only one left in the world.”

Life has its problems. Each of us has our problems. Death, sickness, broken promises, and severed relationships – do you ever get tired of all the bad news? It can lead us to wonder, “Is there a solution?”

Yes, there is! It starts first with God helping us understand that all of life's problems are really a symptom of the big problem of sin.

The awesome news is that God freely gives us the complete solution to that problem of sin. After living and dying for us, Jesus rose again on Easter Sunday. He is the solution! God tells us that he has given us “*a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead*” (1 Peter 1:3).

Tired of the bad news? Come and learn about the good news of God's solution to life's problems. This news will never become old.

Sunday Worship Services:

8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School for All Ages:

9:30 a.m.

9th Annual Church/School Parking Lot Sale!!

Save the dates for May 31st & June 1st!

The week leading up to the garage sale and the 2 days of the sale, we **NEED YOUR HELP!!!** We want to have another successful garage sale and we can't do that without many helping hands so please consider where you will be able to help us out. **Volunteering just an hour or two is a great help.** Training is provided.

- ♦ **The week leading up to the sale:** sorting, pricing, donating, going and picking up items from people's homes, making signs, making meals for the "workers", bringing in your easy-ups
- ♦ **Friday morning:** coming early (6 AM) to help us get everything out to the parking lot, or driving around putting up signs, setting up sales tents/easy ups (donuts & coffee provided!!)
- ♦ **Friday & Saturday:** cashier, concessions, traffic director, sales person, cook/griller, overnight security

We as a church & school have been blessed in many ways through this parking lot sale. We have been able to meet many members of the community, talk to them & give them tours of our church & school, invite them to our VBS, raise money for tuition assistance, kitchen renovations, landscaping, playground equipment & parking lot improvements. The camaraderie between members brings us all closer together with our church/school family and our community.

SOOO... get those closets cleaned and set aside your items for our sale. Also, talk to friends and neighbors. Most people are happy to have an easy outlet for items they no longer want around their home!! If anyone works for a company that needs to get rid of overstock or excess materials ask them if they will donate!!! It can be a tax write-off and we can provide receipts. We have found that the garage-sale customer is in the market for anything and everything!!! If it is the Lord's will let us continue to raise our expectations and reach more people year after year.

There will be sign up sheets at church or you can contact Liesse Foley for more information.

Comets Corner -

It is hard to believe that it is May already. The students have been busy with standardized tests, a fine arts fair and preparing for the Spring Fling and track meet. They are also looking forward to summer vacation, but amazingly are not entirely losing focus on schoolwork. (Yet!) Our awesome God has blessed us all year long! It has been a joy to see the children growing in their knowledge and faith of our Lord, our rock, our fortress, and our deliverer. Here are the final functions as we wind down the year.



May 4	Track Meet - Skyline HS (9 A.M. - 2 P.M.)
May 5	Confirmation Sunday
May 16	PK & K Field Day
May 17	Spring Fling at the Broomfield Auditorium (6:30-8:30)
May 23	PK Graduation
May 24	Awards 11 A.M.; Closing Service 11:30 A.M. RMLHS Prism Concert - 7 P.M.
May 25	RMLHS Graduation - 10 A.M.

The upper grade students are looking forward to our trip to the YMCA of the Rockies this month. The students, Mr. Foley, and three brave chaperones will be hiking, taking an archery class, traveling down the zip line, and learning about the Rocky Mountains during a 2-day excursion May 21-22.



Shepherd Women News

The Shepherd Women officers will change in July. The new officers will be:

- President - Katie Schlomer
- President-elect - Samantha Taki
- Secretary - Linda Hughes
- Treasurer - Sue Kelton



Help Plant Flowers to Beautify Our Church

It seems that spring has finally arrived and it is time to plant.

On **Friday, May 3**, Sharon Wilking will be purchasing flowers at O'Tooles Garden Center and planting the beds and barrels around the church.

You can help choose and plant the flowers. Please bring a trowel and meet at 9 a.m. at church. Contact Sharon if you have questions - 303-868-3315.

POETRY OFFERINGS FROM OUR STUDENTS

The Innocent

There he was,
Upon the tree.

I stood thee wondering,
How much pain could it be?

I stood there at his feet,
Hoping this was all a dream.
How could I let the innocent,
Do such a dreadful thing?

As hours passed,
More and more pain was borne.
All because I was powerless,
And could not finish what I had started.

Hours and hours later,
I heard the unwanted cry.
My heart sank to my stomach,
"It is finished", I heard him cry.

- Ashley Larsen, 7th Grade

American Hero

by Tanis Kohl, 7th grade

As a simple man of honor
He stepped out of the house.
He wondered and he pondered,
As silent as a mouse.

He's braver than a lion,
More graceful than a swan.
The sun rose o'er the horizon
And he left at the break of dawn.

A wondrous flag was waving
With stripes red, blue and white.
The truck for a hero was paving
A road for a fateful flight.

With only a bag of clothing
And a picture of his wife,
He was quite simply loathing
The thought of losing his life.

For a child to him was coming
And He'd been sent to fight.
And many thoughts were roaming
As he drove into the night.

Ha arrived at camp in the morning,
And he was placed on the cold front line
With no other thought than his country
His badges as stars did shine.

Through forests the warrior fought
For his family left at home.
And he died with no other thought,
Than from the place he'd flown.

His last word were "I love you"
They were carved on his dark gravestone.
Because he simply *had* to do,
What was done to save his own.

Into the night went his coffin,
With "Hero" engraved on the side.
To continue the dreadful mission,
To heaven away he'd glide...