



# Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

## The SPIRIT

### From the Pastor's Desk

*"So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."*

*1 Corinthians 13:13*

Mark Twain once wrote, "I can live a week on one good compliment."

Last October you showered Lynn and me with cards for Pastor Appreciation. It was a humbling experience and your cards were filled with kind words. In January I re-read those cards and I was affirmed all over again. Those same words read two months after I first read them continued to have the power of encouragement in them. It was a great reminder to me of the life enhancing wonder of love.

The Apostle Paul knew of what he spoke when he wrote, "...the greatest of these is love." God created us to love. None of us can learn to love in isolation. You and I can't

learn it by ourselves. We can only learn love through a relationship with Christ and through relationships with different kinds of people. Then we are called to put our love into practice in community with others.

During February people often focus on love because of Valentine's Day. I think that is a good thing, but there is far more to love than the romance associated with Valentines. We know love is not a one day emphasis. It is the heart of our Christian faith because God is love. The love of God which we have received is meant to be passed along to others. It is an every day action of word and deed for every Christian. Jesus said, "This is my command: love one another as I have loved you."

This month we also begin the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday is on February 22. We will

have services at noon and at 7pm on Ash Wednesday. During this service you will have the opportunity to receive the Imposition of Ashes; the marking of a cross on your brow.

Throughout Lent we will have Soup Suppers on Wednesday evenings at 5:30pm beginning on February 29. Following the supper we will meet in the sanctuary at 6:30pm for worship. It has been our tradition the past several years to use the Holden Evening Prayer as our order of service. We will do that again this year.

It is my prayer as we journey through Lent with one another that we will love God and one another more dearly.

Inspired by your love for God!

Pastor Steve

February 2012	
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# Lent Begins

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We begin the Lenten season with **Ash Wednesday** on **February 22**. There will be two worship services with communion—one at **12:00 noon** and an evening service at **7:00 PM**.




Beginning Wednesday, **February 29**, we will have soup suppers during Lent in the Fellowship Hall beginning at **5:30 PM** followed by Lenten services at **6:30 PM** in the Sanctuary. You are welcome to contribute a pot of soup on any of the Wednesday evenings. Please notify the church office when you can bring soup so we can plan accordingly.

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## Music

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**Palm Sunday Cantata Preparations!** All are invited to join the Faith Singers in *Palm* presenting a Palm Sunday Cantata. The cantata will be presented on Sunday,  **SUNDAY** April 1, at both the 8:00 and 10:30 services. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings. This year we will hear the story of our Lord's passion as told by Mark, framed with Twila Paris' well-known anthem *Lamb of God*. Please consider singing with us for this very special event. Your gift is needed in this group! For more details, see Deanna Freund or a Faith Singer.



**Maundy Thursday Service.** Again this year we will present a re-enactment of the Last Supper and the Garden of Gethsemane. We make changes and additions every year to this service, so if you would like to join us, please see Deanna Freund or Pam Carlson for details. We are currently working on new additions to the script...you could be a part of it! Those who have been involved in this project in years past have felt that it made their holy week experience extremely powerful. Please join us!

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## Retirement and Estate Workshop

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Brian Brooks and Mark Johnson of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will host a Retirement and Estate Strategies Workshop on Tuesday, **February 21** from **1:00-2:15 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. The guest speaker, Jonathan Doering, Thrivent Financial Consultant from San Diego with 21 years experience, will share strategies on:

- How to accumulate and distribute money for retirement
- How to pass money onto heirs or charities in a tax-wise manner
- Successful investing in today's market conditions
- How to reduce IRS impact on your money



To reserve a seat, please contact Monique Jouglet at [Monique.jouglet@thrivent.com](mailto:Monique.jouglet@thrivent.com) or call 877-593-1195 x 207. We look forward to seeing you there!

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# Council's Comments...

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Welcome back to all our winter visitors. We are so glad to have you worshipping with us and involved in our weekly programs. Have you noticed all the new additions to our education programs? If not, please check them out. Many thanks to our staff and volunteers who are leading these sessions.

Our web site has undergone some major changes recently. The info is now organized with pages specifically for visitors, news and events, our worship information, our ministries and how to get involved in serving God in our world, our community and our church. If you have additional information to share on the web site, please forward it to Lloyd Tarr. He will be glad to post it on our web site. You will also find an "FYI – For Your Information" link on the front page. This is where you will find information specifically for our members and friends who regularly attend SOTH. If you would like to have a page set up to share info with your team or those attending a program, talk with Lloyd and he will set up a page for you. If you are planning an event, please be sure to send your info to Jan Gavle in the church office so our web calendar includes all our events. With so many groups and meetings using our facilities, it is especially important to get your meetings on the calendar so we can manage the use of our rooms. You can now view the daily SOTH activities on the Home page and the full calendar of events is under "News and Events."

When we took the REVEAL survey we identified areas of growth for our congregation. Growing our discipleship skills and providing a small group ministry were among these growth areas. Pastor Steve has been speaking about discipleship in his Sunday messages lately. He is challenging us to be disciples. As he stated last Sunday, we do not have to do everything...Just start casting out the fishing nets... be fishers of people...God will clean them once we catch them. So we invite everyone to join in the fun.

Our Outreach Action team is focusing on reaching out to people in our neighborhoods while collecting food for the Extended Hands Food Bank. They are preparing to experiment with a door-to-door collection called "Neighbors Helping Neighbors." If you are interested in learning more, please contact Rose Gibson. They started collecting food and donations on Thursdays at the Art on the Avenue/Farmer's Market... just look for all the tents and displays on the median of the Avenue of the Fountains. We are there!! While they are collecting donations, they are also passing out information about SOTH, as well as "FH C.A.R.E Packages" which provide important personal medical information to Fire Department and Ambulance Paramedics during an emergency. We have learned that this is especially important for winter visitors. So please stop by the booth and pick one up. We will be placing some in the Narthex on the Collection Center as well.

Our new Church Council will be meeting with the Staff and Action Team Leaders on February 25<sup>th</sup> for a strategic planning session. Please keep these folks in your prayers as we seek God's guidance for his work at SOTH. As always, you can send ideas and suggestions to the Council via [Council@sothaz.com](mailto:Council@sothaz.com).

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# Come To The Fair

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Second Annual Missions Action Fair

Sunday, March 4, 2012

After Both Worship Services

Fellowship Hall



SOTH Missions

Come to the FAIR and learn more about the organizations and projects SOTH supports.

How do we—

- Weave adult and children's studies to understand and carry out God's work?
- Get active and personally participate in global evangelism as a congregation?
- Help each church member understand his calling to world missions?

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## Second Annual International Night Out

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On **February 18** at **5:00 PM**, you are invited to Shepherd of the Hills Second Annual International Night Out to be held in the Fellowship Hall. Do you or your ancestors come from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Greece, Mexico, or any other part of the world? If so, you are asked to provide a dish to share that represents your heritage. Please label your dish, such as German Potato Salad, Norwegian Lefse, Swedish Meatballs, etc. Plan to come and enjoy good international food and music as well as Christian fellowship. A free-will offering will be taken.



**International Dinner**

You are encouraged to sign up in the Narthex and indicate how many will be attending. We want to make sure we save you a seat!

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## Single Boomers and Builders (50+)

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**SINGLES SOCIAL HOUR**

Come to a meet and greet social hour in the church parlor on Saturday, **February 4**, from 4:00-6:00 PM. Bring an appetizer and share in Christian fellowship with new and old friends. Everyone is welcome to bring a friend. Beverages will be provided. See you there!

Call Judi Van Kueren at (480) 836-1926 or Rose Gibson at (480) 837-3119 for more information.

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# Come and Feed My Starving Children

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Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) is a Christian hunger relief organization that prepares life-saving meals for starving children in 70 countries worldwide. Volunteers are organized in teams of 7 or 8 members to fill and seal plastic bags of a food product consisting of rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables, and 20 vitamins and minerals. The food prepared by FMSC is distributed through a network of missionary partners with a 99.9% success rate of delivery. The packing sessions last about two hours, and the site is located at 7965 South Priest Drive, Suite 106, Tempe, AZ 85284, phone: (480) 626-1970.

Please prayerfully consider volunteering to help with this very important ministry. You can sign up as individuals, families, or groups. Volunteer packers can go to the website [fmsc.org](http://fmsc.org) to sign up. Shepherd of the Hills has secured the following dates for us to volunteer to help:

Friday, February 24	4:00-5:30 pm	6 slots
Thursday, March 22	6:00-7:30 pm	10 slots
Friday, April 13	9:30-11:30 am	10 slots
Friday, May 18	9:30-11:30 am	10 slots
Saturday, June 2	9:00-11:00 am	10 slots
Saturday, July 14	9:00-11:00 am	
Saturday, August 18	9:00-11:00 am	
Saturday, September 15	11:30 am-1:30 pm	

If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Shultz at (480) 661-2690.

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## Rio Verde

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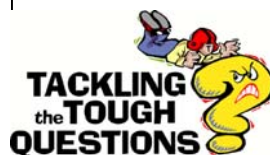
Rio Verde Bible Study will meet at **5:30 PM** on **February 7** at the home of M.J. and Karen Knutson, 25221 N. Vado Street, Rio Verde.



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## A Q-Place

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Where can you talk about God. Every Sunday morning at 9:30 AM in the church parlor you may bring your tough spiritual questions about God, live, and the Bible to people who will listen and not judge. Everyone needs a safe place to explore what they believe. You are accepted and respected and you can be yourself—joys, pains, doubts, and all. All are welcome.

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# Habitat for Humanity

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Well, its' a new year and SOTH is once again participating with the Northeast Lutheran Coalition to help build a Habitat house for a worthy family who could not otherwise provide a safe and secure environment for their family. This year the "NE Lutherans" will be participating with the "Mighty United Methodist Coalition," the "East Valley Presbyterian Coalition," and "MUMC" to build a new house at 1513 W. Grove Street in Phoenix for the Cavazos family.

Each building partner in the project is responsible for supplying 1/4 of the labor and 1/4 of the funds needed for construction. This means the NE Lutherans will contribute a minimum of \$21,250, which is 1/4 of the \$85,000 required of the sponsors to build a house. SOTH's share is dependent on how many churches participate in the NE Coalition. The funds come from SOTH's Mission Action Team and your tax credit donations.

SOTH started framing the house on Saturday, January 21. We will work again on **March 10** when we will do interior painting. We will need to supply 10 workers. On **May 5**, SOTH will be involved in the final clean up and will need to supply 5 workers. This will also be the day of dedication for the house.

We need volunteers to help with this most worthy and rewarding ministry. If you are not into swinging a hammer or paintbrush, perhaps you are able to help out by making arrangements for snacks or lunches to be served to the workers. Please contact Jerry Anderson at (480) 540-9494 or email AndersJD@msn.com if you are able to volunteer. Additional information is available in the Narthex.

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## Sound Financial Advice for Students

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**Calling all High School students.** Personal finance expert, Dave Ramsey, has created Foundations in Personal Finance—a turn-key curriculum designed to provide students with sound financial principles that will guide them into adulthood. Dave Ramsey will educate and entertain students as they learn how to avoid debt and build wealth.



This course for students will meet on Sundays beginning in **February 12** at **12:00 noon** in the Education Building Rooms 5 and 6. Facilitated by Julia, please email Julia@sothaz.com your questions or to sign up. The cost is \$15 per family for this 7-week class. Scholarships are available.

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# Bible Studies at SOTH

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Truth  
Observed



Pastor Steve continues to facilitate *The Truth Project* every **Wednesday** evening at **6:30 PM** in the Education Building Rooms 5 and 6. The one-hour video is followed by discussion. The study is relevant to today's worldview where Christians live very similarly to non-believers. This DVD-based curriculum is comprised of 13 one-hour lessons taught by Dr. Del Tackett of Focus on the Family. He states that the ultimate goal is not simply to gain knowledge, but to look upon the face of God—and to be *transformed* in the process. He asks the all-important question: *Do you really believe that what you believe is real?* The remaining Truth Project lessons are as follows:

- Lesson 5: Science: What is True?
- Lesson 6: History: Whose Story?
- Lesson 7: Sociology: The Divine Imprint
- Lesson 8: Unio Mystica: Am I Alone?
- Lesson 11: Labor: Created to Create
- Lesson 9: The State: Whose law?
- Lesson 10: The American Experiment: Stepping Stones
- Lesson 11: Labor: Created to Create
- Lesson 12: Community and Involvement: God Cares, do I?

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## Studies for Men

Shepherd of the Hills offers three Bible studies for men

**Wednesday** mornings at **7:30 AM** Pastor Bill Snyder and Evan Owens facilitate an overview of the scripture texts for the coming Sunday. A wonderful time to share a cup of coffee with other men and explore God's word.

**Thursday** mornings at **6:30 AM** the group meets in the Fellowship Hall to study the new Testament.

Join Pastor Steve on **Thursday** evenings at **6:30 PM** in the Education Building Rooms 5 and 6 to study *The Story*. This book tells the grandest, most compelling story of all time: the true God who loves his children and establishes a way of salvation.

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## Studies for Women

The **Monday** evening women's group meets at **7:00 PM** in the home of Marcia Fears. The **Friday** morning group meet at **9:00 AM** in the church parlor.

The women have begun studying the book *To Run and Not Grow Tired*. This book contains studies of twelve individuals in the Bible who are under pressure, men and women of faith who survived life's adversity. Their lives can be a source of strength and insight as we look to God when we feel too tired and overwhelmed to go on in the race He has called us to run.

For questions, please call Marcia at (480) 837-6589.

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# Ninth Annual SOTH Golf Tournament

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Shepherd of the Hills Charitable Foundation is sponsoring its Ninth Annual Golf Tournament on **Saturday, March 17**, at Rio Verde Country Club. Here's the lineup:

Registration: 6:30 am to 7:20 am  
Shotgun Start: 8:00 am  
Lunch: Plated dinner following awards



There will be golf prizes for hole-in-ones, mixed scramble, longest putt, and closest to the pin. Volunteers are needed for a successful tournament, and there are many ways in which to help. If you would like to sign up to play in the tournament, or have the time to volunteer, please contact the tournament chairman Denny Hanson at (480) 329-7407.

The funds received from the tournament are used to help the needs of others. Over the past seven years, the Foundation has provided food, clothing, financial assistance, and many other forms of aid to hundreds of people in Fountain Hills and the Greater Phoenix Metropolitan Area.

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## *Pray For The Children*

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**Prayers**  
FOR CHILDREN

We at SOTH have taken on a new mission (at no cost to anyone). You may not realize it, but when you took one of the "Prayer Warrior Crosses" from a basket that was passed around during a worship service, you became involved in an extraordinary mission that not only involves every member of SOTH, but every child in Fountain Hills and other places throughout the United States and overseas. As you pray for these children, you are not only affecting their lives, but the lives of their parents, relatives, friends, teachers, and the entire community in which they live. We have taken on a Global Task that God has called us to.

By using the simple tool of **Prayer**, we can fix so much that is broken. Through prayers for these children, the Lord can restore families; He can bring peace to troubled households; He can rejuvenate businesses and create new ones; He will bless these young people with good things in their lives that might not have been there if they had not been prayed for; He will prevent the evil that lurks around every corner for these children.

You can help change lives and our community for the better simply by participating in *Pray For The Children*. How can you say no? Take a cross the next time you are offered one. Take it home and follow the instructions on the card. It can be a life changing action, not just for the children, but for everyone and especially for YOU!

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# Youth News

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Greetings!

Here is the youth ministry news that is coming up...

**February 5th** is, as most of you know, the Super Bowl. Whichever team you are cheering for, I hope that you have a great time watching all the awesome commercials! However, before the Super Bowl happens, the youth of the church will be collecting canned food and money donations for the Souper-Bowl of Caring. On that Sunday when you come to worship, you may see some kids wearing football jerseys carrying soup pots to collect money for this great event. All the money and food will be donated to Extended Hands Food Bank. So please bring extra canned goods and a generous heart that Sunday.



**February 17-20** is our annual Snow Blast winter retreat! We will be snowboarding and skiing on this retreat for two days at Wolf Creek Ski area. Lessons and equipment are available at the ski area. Both Junior and Senior high students are welcome to attend this retreat. The cost for this retreat is \$250.

In Christ,

Joe Miniken

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## Spring Break Adventures for Kids

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Spring is approaching fast and this year Shepherd of the Hills would like to offer a special service to parents. This Spring Break, March 12-16, we would like to make an alternative to parents having to send their kids to day care, take time off, or leave their kids alone at home. Our solution is "Spring Break Adventures for Kids." The goal of this program is to provide a safe place for kids to come during the day while their parents are working.

We aspire to get enough volunteers to be able to go a full day with the kids. With this being said, we NEED VOLUNTEERS to run games, crafts, skits, music, to feed the kids, and to be floaters. If you are interested in helping in any of these areas, please contact [lisa@sothaz.com](mailto:lisa@sothaz.com). We welcome your help for any amount of time you are able to give. And if you are wondering if your help is needed...the answer is



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# Words of Appreciation

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Dear Lutheran Women,

I want to thank all the women who baked the delicious cookies. I really appreciated them and the lady to stopped by with them.

Bless you all,  
Mary Mitchell

Dear Cookie Ladies,

Thank you so much for the cookies you gave to me at Christmas. They were delicious and very much appreciated. God's blessing to all of you.



Sincerely,  
Pastor Bill Snyder

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## Kudos to Our Volunteers!

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A very special **THANK YOU** to all of the volunteers who have helped to keep our church property in good shape by helping with the landscaping, cleaning, taking down Christmas decorations and making repairs,

The January Cleaning Crew: Debbie and Paul Van Der Werf, Shirley Haedt, Diane Abfall, Pastor Steve and Lynn Bergeson, Roger and Phyllis Cline, Lloyd Tarr, and Jan and Al Gavle.

Landscaping: John Bjornholt, Bill Luzinski, Luther Peters, George Miller, Dennis Johnson, Paul Appeldorn and Lloyd Tarr.

Frank De Groot for repairing the leaking sprayer in the kitchen.

Taking down the Christmas decorations: Betty Klanssek, Barb Drake, Vonnie Ribbe, Shirly Haedt, Paul and Gail Appeldorn, Sue Horn, Dennis Johnson, Lloyd Tarr and Pastor Steve.

When you see these folks, please tell them



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## Chamber Players

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The Fountain Hills Chamber Players perform at 3:00 PM **February 26** at Shepherd of the Hills. Come enjoy good relaxing music!

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## Scouts Recycle

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SOTH's Boy Scout Troop 444 will collect your metal for recycling.! Money earned helps pay for badges, summer camp, etc. To schedule a pick-up, call Paul Perreault, Troop Treasurer, at (480) 206-7477. Thank you!