

Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church

GOOD TIDINGS

January 2017

Special points of interest:

- November Financial Report
- Council Meeting Minutes
- Upcoming Events

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www.shepherdofthehill.com

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I have never been a person who has made New Year's resolutions. I do not seem to have the kind of internal discipline that is needed to enact dramatic changes in my life. Motivation to change things in my life has had to come from the outside. For instance, I did not begin to exercise regularly because of some sort of promise I made on New Year's Eve. I began to work out because I had developed back problems. As long as I worked out regularly, my back didn't hurt. Pain (or the promise of a lack of pain) is a great motivator.

One of the aspects of 2016 that was painful for me was the divisive way that we, as a nation, often spoke to each other or spoke about each other. All throughout the 2015-2016 presidential campaign the dialogue between the candidates had precious little to do with the ideas and policies that were important to the American people. We allowed the dialogue to devolve into personal attacks on the candidates which, after a while, became attacks on those who supported the candidates. When the dust settled and the results of the elections were revealed, we were left more entrenched and embittered than ever.

The way that we speak about each other not only reflects the conditions of our hearts, it shapes our hearts as well. To consistently speak badly of someone or to constantly question the motivations behind every action or word is a very dark rabbit hole to enter in to. This habit can become a dark spirit that has the ability to spill into more than just the political field; it can affect all of our relationships.

I do not pretend to have a solution for our country's ills, but God has given *me* something that I can do. The Eighth Commandment states, "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor" (Exodus 20:16). This commandment means more than just not lying. Martin Luther, in the *Small Catechism*, explains the meaning as this, "*We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations. INSTEAD we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light.*" In other words, God's Eighth Commandment challenges me to do more than just tell the truth. It challenges me to try to give the other the benefit of the doubt – even if I do not agree with them or even like them. It challenges me to try to assume that – for the overwhelming majority of the people – the other has the best interests of the nation (or me) at heart. I do not have to agree with what is said or done, but – if I am called to respond – I am called to address (correct, admonish, confront) the word or act and not to attack the person who says or does it.

Mahatma Gandhi was once attributed to have said, "Be the change that you want to see in this world." I want to see a new and civil way to dialogue about important things in this nation. Therefore I feel called to change the way I speak to (and ultimately think about) those who may not agree with me. Is it easy? No. A change of habits rarely is. But the alternative hurts me too much. Pain is a great motivator.

God's blessings for this new year.

Pastor Jon



Greetings and Joy to you and your families as we begin the 2017 year,

Last month I reflected on the ways in which God has been at work through our youth ministry. This month I look forward to 2017 and the ways that God will continue to use our ministry here to reach youth in the Lockport area.

We are continuing to discern the direction of developing our high school ministries. We are looking to start a group that will meet bi-weekly to discuss the connection between social justice issues and our faith. During each study we will include hands on elements where we do community service and explore opportunities to put our faith into practice. We hope to develop a group that is an inviting environment for all youth, whether they have a long relationship with Christ or are just curious.

We also are looking to continue to expand on our existing programs. Last year we took four youth to a mission trip to Hamilton Ohio, the youth who came had a blast working on homes of residents along with 400 other youth from across the country. This year we have 8 spots for youth. Youth who have at least completed senior year are eligible.

We also look forward to our third summer of F5, our summer ministry for middle school and high school aged youth. This summer we hope to continue to provide activities, service projects, and Bible studies for our youth each week. We have seen growth in the number of youth that have participated over the last two years. Our goal for 2016 is to expand the number of adults who volunteer to help so that we can continue to expand the activities and service projects.

This fall marks the completion of a transition that our Confirmation program has been in over the past three years. This fall we will confirm a group of students on Reformation Sunday. We have enjoyed the walk with these boys and girls over the past three years, but it does not stop there. We hope to continue to provide opportunities for them to express and grow their faith. Our responsibility as a congregation to the nurturing of their faith does not stop when they are confirmed.

We have a great group of volunteers for a number of ministries including tutoring, VBS, and Sunday school. In 2017 we hope to expand our bank of volunteers, this will allow our existing ministries to grow as well as to continue to plan and develop further ministries as we see needs in our community. This includes developing a youth committee who would meet monthly to evaluate and discern youth programming.

Mike Markwell
Youth Ministry Coordinator



Congratulations! Mike and Rachel



Preschool

Registration

2017/2018 Preschool
Registration now Open

Shepherd of the Hill Christian Preschool is a ministry offered to the community for three- and four-year-olds. Karen Pedigo, our preschool director, is certified in early childhood development and is skilled and experienced in early childhood education. Together with her dedicated and capable staff, they have created a vibrant early learning environment for young children.

November				
INCOME				
Offerings			\$	31,400.50
Loose Offerings	\$	1,813.00		
Simply Giving	\$	3,264.72		
Special Prop Proj	\$	5,215.00		
Preschool	\$	4,926.07		
	\$	350.00		
			\$	15,568.79
Gifts for bills	\$	331.00		
Fish Pantry	\$	200.00		
Memorial Gifts	\$	300.00		
Debt Reduction	\$	7.50		
Sunday School	\$	-		
Music	\$	50.00	\$	888.50
Income Total			\$	47,857.79
EXPENSES				
Salaries/Benefits	\$	17,205.85		
Mortgage	\$	2,571.00		
Simply Giving Fees	\$	34.37		
Child Care/Hospitality	\$	618.85		
Fish Pantry	\$	-		
Utilities	\$	3,118.53		
Maintenance	\$	1,018.31		
Insurance	\$	1,587.17		
Office Expenses	\$	371.58		
NI Synod	\$	2,350.00		
Special Prop Proj transfer	\$	5,055.00		
Memorial Gift	\$	300.00		
Worship	\$	587.68		
Samaritan Purse	\$	20.00		
Youth	\$	68.29		
Preschool	\$	4,926.07		
Sunday School	\$	59.11		
Total Expenses			\$	39,891.81
Income less Expenses			\$	7,965.98



What is Altar Guild?

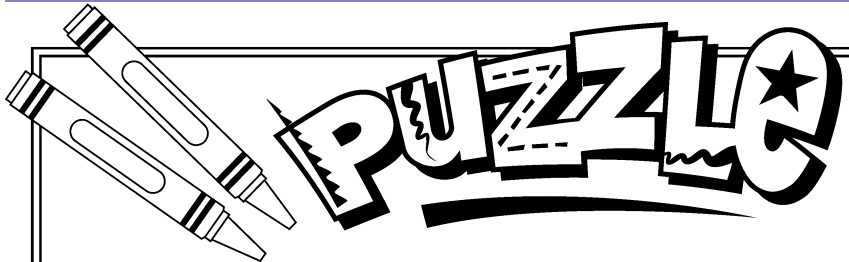
Altar Guild is a ministry at Shepherd of the Hill that serves God in His house. We are usually working behind the scenes. The decorating and housekeeping of God's house is a special service. Not to mention we are the preparers and keepers of some of the coolest stuff we have in the Lutheran Church!

What do we do? Once a month we take a turn preparing and cleaning up the communion and taking off the Altar flowers so that the donors may take them home. We try to work in pairs and there is always someone else in church to lend a hand!

At our meetings we enjoy the fellowship of a cross generational group, which brings up some wonderful discussions during our Bible study.

We meet once a month in the Narthex of the church. Our meetings are the second Tuesday of each month September through June. In December we meet at a local restaurant for dinner and then to a member's home for dessert and fellowship. In June we enjoy a pot luck picnic in the Narthex of the church.





Light OF THE World

In a world full of sin and darkness, how can we find our way?
Discover Jesus' answer in John 8:12, NIV.

*Directions: Use the key to fill in the missing vowels.
Then read the completed Bible verse.*

KEY:  **A**  **E**  **I**  **O**

" _ _ M T H _ L _ G H T _ F

T H _ W _ R L D. W H _ _ V _ R

F _ L L _ W S M _ W _ L L N _ V _ R

W _ L K _ N D _ R K N _ S S."

J _ H N 8:12, NIV

Answer: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness." John 8:12, NIV

MASON JAR nightLight

Because Jesus is the light of the world, his followers don't need to fear darkness or life's dark times. Make this nightlight to remind you of Jesus' light and presence.



What you need:

- Work area with good ventilation
- Mason jar
- Clear glue that works on glass
- Paintbrush
- Glass stones
- Tealight candle
- Lighter
- Adult supervision

What you do:

1. Starting at the top of the jar, brush glue on a small section.
2. Press glass stones onto the glue in rows. Let dry.
3. Continue gluing stones, in small sections, until the entire jar is covered.
4. When dry, place a candle inside. Light with adult help.

Bible Quiz



In Matthew 13, to what does Jesus compare the kingdom of heaven?

- A farmer sowing seed
- A mustard seed
- Yeast
- Hidden treasure
- A merchant who finds a pearl
- A fishing net
- All of the above

Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church Council Minutes
Tuesday, December 13, 2016

The meeting was called to order by President Steve Kirk at 6:35 PM.

Present: Dave Helfert, Dennis Wellsandt, Ken Franz, Rick McManis, Steve Kirk, Pastor Jon Pedersen, Phil Sleezer, Fern Kinder, Nell Pieper and Tom Gustafson.

The Council shared personal “highs/low” and prayed for one another.

Minutes of the November 15 meeting were approved prior to the meeting via email.

Treasurer’s Report: Due to a combination of circumstances, there was no treasurer’s report available for the month of November.

Treasurer Wellsandt told Council that at the conclusion of the 2016 budget year, he would prepare a report that would show how expenditures for 2016 compare with what had been budgeted.

Pastor’s Report (Highlights):

A “Family Fun Night” will take place following the Saturday evening service on January 21. It will include a baked potato bar and Bunco!

From February 1-8, Pastor and Sonya will be taking a vacation/ministry trip to Nicaragua.

Youth Ministers Report: Council received a written report from Mike Markwell documenting recent and future youth events. He also included fund raising goals for 2017.

President’s Mailbox:

Our congregation received a letter from Pastor Kurt Nordby (Assistant to the Bishop for Stewardship and Development). Pastor Nordby thanked us for our “faithfulness and generosity in sharing gifts of mission support ... Because of your gifts we remain strong and bold in the telling of all God’s wonderful works and grace in Christ Jesus.”

Ministry Team Reports:

Communications (Tom Gustafson): No recommendations to Council

Evangelism/Fellowship and Caring (Ken Franz): This committee is being “reformatted” ... its goals/purposes being reevaluated. The Befriender’s Ministry will play a role in this repurposing.

Stewardship (Pastor Pedersen): The pledge cycle for ministry in 2017 has been completed.

Learning and Youth (Rick McManis): The youth will be helping with the "Family Fun Night" planned for January.

The original order of sixty 50th Anniversary Cookbooks sold out quickly. Another 60 were ordered.

Preschool (Nell Pieper): A new buzzer/alarm system is being installed.

Preschool registration is now taking place.

There will be a \$7.00 increase in future tuition.

The Ministry Team Assessment was completed and shared by Nell with Council.

Property (Phil Sleezer): A committee to examine our HVAC system has been formed. Eventually this committee will come to Council with recommendations ...what needs to be done, when does it need to be done, and how should it be paid for. Jim Naylor is the coordinator of this committee. Other members are Terry Ziemke, Bob Barwa and Max Woods.

Phil Sleezer will contact the 20/10 Engineering Group and request an invoice for their HVAC evaluation that was submitted to SOTH in September of 2016.

Worship (Pastor Pedersen): No recommendations to Council.

Congregational Ministry Teams:

Finance/Audit (Dennis Wellsandt): In November, Treasurer Wellsandt (and Lois Reil) attended a treasurer's workshop. A CPA (Thomas Hammar) at this workshop strongly suggested that statements of giving that are distributed annually to church members should include the following statement. (The reasons are IRS related.)

"No goods or services were provided to you by the church in connection with any contributions and consists of entirely intangible spiritual benefits."

Treasurer Wellsandt made a motion that Shepherd of the Hill follow this protocol (2nd by Tom Gustafson). The motion carried.

CPA Hammar also recommended an annual audit and that a Form 1099 be provided to anyone who is paid more than \$600 in a calendar year.

Memorial Gifts (Nell Pieper): New carpeting for the narthex has been chosen.

Nell shared with Council the Ministry Assessment completed by the Memorial Gifts Committee.

Personnel (Dave Helfert): No recommendations to Council.

Nominations (Fern Kinder): Preparing for elections in January is still “a work in progress.” It is difficult to “get a handle” on all elected positions ... including length of terms and how many are elected each year. Rick McManis agreed to attempt to clear up this confusion.

Old Business:

10:35 service ... Pastor will prepare a survey to share with the attendees of the 10:35 service to see if that service time is working.

Endowment Committee update: The committee is looking at organizations that will help us with the basics of setting up an endowment as well as future help in administering the fund. Two organizations that have been considered are In Faith (associated with Thrivent) and ELCA.

Building key distribution: Dawn Virva has completed a master list of building key distribution.

New Business:

Council pictures: Photos will be taken in January after the election.

Weight Watchers request for room use: Weight Watchers has requested to rent a room for weekly meetings (probably Tuesdays). After a motion by Ken Franz (2nd by Nell Pieper), Council approved this rental agreement.

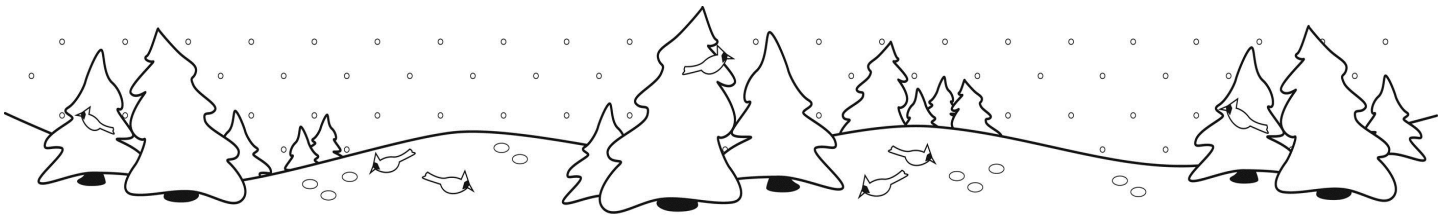
Council elections and terms:

Steve Kirk (President) ... one year remaining in term (2017)
Dave Helfert (Vice-President) ... one year remaining in term (2017)
Tom Gustafson (Secretary) ... one year remaining in term (2017)
Rick McManis ... one year remaining in term (2017)
Dennis Wellsandt (Treasurer) ... will run for two year term (2017-2018)
Phil Sleezer ... will run for two year term (2017-2018)
Nell Pieper ... will serve one more year ... by appointment (2017)
Fern Kinder ... will finish term (2016)
Ken Franz ... will finish term (2016)

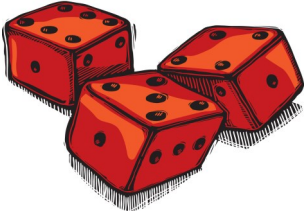
We need to fill two (2 yr. term) positions and have room for two more.

January Council Meeting: The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 17 at 6:30 PM.

Nell Pieper made a motion for adjournment (seconded by Dave Helfert). The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 and was closed with the Lord's Prayer.



**BUNKO
NIGHT**



Saturday, January 21st

Family Game Night-Everyone Welcome

5:00PM Service

6:00PM Family Game Night

**Congregational
Meeting**



Sunday, January 29th

Congregational Meeting

Following the 10:35 Service

Council Elections will take place



**Save the Date
July 17-21st**

July 17-21, 2017

VBS SAVE THE DATE

A Planning Committee is needed

See Mike Markwell or Kris Glowczynski if interested

God's kingdom is like free refills at a restaurant. Wait – what?!

Jesus used common, everyday items to explain the kingdom of God; we can too! The kingdom is like free refills. Still thirsty after one soda or coffee? Get another – no charge. In fact, the kingdom of God is better than free refills because you don't even have to pay for the first glass.

It's like having a parent buy you a favorite meal when you're young. You sit back and savor it without the price crossing your mind. That's okay, because the generous giver loves you and wants to be with you.

Sure, that's simplistic, but so are Jesus' parables. Overanalyze them and they may fall apart. But ponder the single point each makes, maybe get a chuckle and an *a-ha!* out of it, and that parable has done its job. So grab another free refill – of your beverage and of God's love!

—Heidi Mann

January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00am—Worship 10:35am—Worship 10:35am—NO Sunday School 12pm—NO Reverberations 5:30pm—NO Allegro Bells	2 Preschool Out till January 6 7:00pm—Dartball	3 7:00pm—Worship Committee	4 9:30am—Prayer Shawl 9:30am—Small Group 9:30am—NO Mom's Group 3:15pm—NO Tutoring 6:00pm—NO Shepherd Ringers 6:30/7:30pm—AA 6:30pm—NO Confirmation 7:10pm—Chancel Choir	5 9:30am—Prayer Shawl 6:00pm—NO Small Grp #1 6:00pm—NO Small Grp #2 7:00pm—Property Comm.	6 9:00am—Mexican Train Dominoes	7 5:00pm—Worship
8 9:00am—Worship 10:35am—Worship 10:35am—Sunday School 12pm—Reverberations 5:30pm—Allegro Bells	9 7:00pm—Dartball	10 6:30pm—Altar Guild 7:00pm—Preschool Board	11 9:30am—Prayer Shawl 9:30am—Small Group 9:30am—Mom's Group 3:15pm—NO Tutoring 6:00pm—Shepherd Ringers 6:30/7:30pm—AA 6:30pm—Confirmation 7:10pm—Chancel Choir	12 9:30am—Prayer Shawl 7:00pm—Exec. Committee	13 9:00am—Mexican Train Dominoes 4:30pm—Girl Scouts	14 5:00pm—Worship
15 9:00am—Worship 10:35am—Worship 10:35am—Sunday School 12pm—Reverberations 1:00pm—Chopolski Baby Shower 5:30pm—Allegro Bells	16 7:00pm—Dartball	17 6:30pm—Church Council 7:00pm—Deborah Circle	18 9:30am—Prayer Shawl 9:30am—Small Group 9:30am—Mom's Group B/S 3:15pm—Tutoring 6:00pm—Shepherd Ringers 6:30/7:30—AA 6:30pm—Confirmation 7:10pm—Chancel Choir	19 9:30am—Prayer Shawl	20 9:00am—Mexican Train Dominoes	21 5:00pm—Worship 6:00pm—Family Fun Night
22 9:00am—Worship 10:35am—Worship 10:35am—Sunday School 12pm—Reverberations 5:30pm—Allegro Bells	23 7:00pm—Dartball	24 7:00pm—Ruth Circle	25 9:30am—Prayer Shawl 9:30am—Small Group 9:30am—Mom's Group B/S 3:15pm—Tutoring 6:00pm—Shepherd Ringers 6:30/7:30—AA 6:30pm—Confirmation 7:10pm—Chancel Choir	26 9:30am—Prayer Shawl	27 9:00am—Mexican Train Dominoes	28 5:00pm—Worship
29 9:00am—Worship 10:35am—Worship 10:35am—Sunday School 2nd Congregational Meeting After 10:35am service 12pm—Reverberations 5:30pm—Allegro Bells	30 7:00pm—Dartball	31				
						

Helper Schedule for

Dec 2016/Jan 2017

Please note which day you are scheduled to serve. If you are unable to serve, please call someone to replace you and then notify the office.

	Assisting Minister 9am Only	Acolyte 9am Only	Communion Assistant 9am Only	Lay Reader 9am Only	AV Operator All Services	Ushers 9am only Flink/Gaddis	Counters Weekly
12/3-12/4	Nancy Monken	TBD	Jan Rauworth Donna Woods	Jan Sleezer	Sat. 5:00pm Jake Zacharias Sun. 9:00am Susan Mead Sun. 10:35am Phil Sleezer	TBD TBD TBD	Chris Toso Ed Grabenhofer
12/10-12/11	Dave Helfert	TBD	Donna Rothlisberger Gary Haut	Susan Mead	Sat. 5:00pm Bryan Rauworth Sun. 9:00am Phil Sleezer Sun. 10:35am Jerry Liston	TBD TBD TBD	Sally Unmising John Yudt
12/17-12/18	Nancy Baumgart	TBD	Jeri Rigoni Lynn Reed	Donna Rothlisberger	Sat. 5:00pm Paul Toso Sun. 9:00am Nathan Helfert Sun. 10:35am Phil Sleezer	TBD TBD TBD	Sharon Grabenhofer Don Lawler
12/24-12/25	TBD	TBD	TBD TBD	Tina Baker	Sat. 5:00pm Helfert/Rauworth Sat. 10:30pm Helfert/Rauworth Sun. 10:35am K. Glowczynski	TBD TBD TBD	Doug Waldvogel Lois Reil
12/31-1/1	Gary Wintersteen	TBD	Donna Helfert Bryan Rauworth	Gary Flink	Sat. 5:00pm Jerry Liston Sun. 9:00am Nathan Helfert Sun. 10:35am Susan Mead	TBD TBD TBD	Sally Unmising John Yudt
1/7-1/8	Susan Mead	TBD	Bill Bunting Dan Gaddis	Gary Haut	Sat. 5:00pm Jerry Liston Sun. 9:00am Bryan Rauworth Sun. 10:35am K. Glowczynski	TBD TBD TBD	Chris Toso Ed Grabenhofer
1/14-1/15	Linda Bunting	TBD	Kirstin Mack Susan Mead	Marianne Wintersteen	Sat. 5:00pm Jake Zacharias Sun. 9:00am Andy Neil Sun. 10:35am Bryan Rauworth	TBD TBD TBD	Doug Waldvogel Lois Reil
1/21-1/22	Dave Helfert	TBD	Jan Rauworth Tina Baker	Donna Helfert	Sat. 5:00pm Paul Toso Sun. 9:00am Susan Mead Sun. 10:35am K. Glowczynski	TBD TBD TBD	Sally Unmising John Yudt
1/28-1/29	Nancy Monken	TBD	Donna Woods Lynn Reed	Mickey Callaghan	Sat. 5:00pm Kris Glowczynski Sun. 9:00am Nathan Helfert Sun. 10:35am B. Rauworth	TBD TBD TBD	Sharon Grabenhofer Don Lawler

Executive Committee Members

Steve KirkPresident
Dave Helfert..... Vice President
Tom Gustafson. Secretary
Dennis Wellsandt..... Treasurer

Council Member

Ken Franz Rick McManis
Nell Pieper Fern Kinder
Phil Sleezer

Council Meets the 3rd Tuesday of the
Month at 6:30PM



SOTH Ministry Team

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soth.personnel@shepherdofthehill.com
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soth.property@shepherdofthehill.com
soth.secretary@shepherdofthehill.com
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soth.vp@shepherdofthehill.com
soth.worship@shepherdofthehill.com
soth.youth@shepherdofthehill.com



January 1 Katelyn McManis. Betty Shepherd
January 2 James Forbes, Marsha McGuire
January 3 James Baker, Taylor Kirk,
Douglas Pieper
January 5 Daryl Caneva
January 8 Scott Fisher
January 10 Ella Aoyagi
January 11 Norma McCall
January 19 Julie Krejczyk
January 22 Allison Fischer, Natalie Fisher
January 23 Sonya Pedersen
January 24 Natallie Barth
January 25 Erin Meyers
January 28 AnnaBeth Glowczynski,
Gary Wintersteen
January 29 Phillip Sleezer
January 30 Emily Fischer
January 31 Harold Sager Jr.



January 28

Charles & Donna Anderson



Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church

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Web page: www.shepherdofthehill.com

Mission

"To Know Jesus And To Make Jesus Known"

Vision

"Transforming Lives, Families And Our
Community Through Jesus Christ"



SERVICE SCHEDULE

Saturday

5:00PM

Sunday

9:00AM and 10:35AM

Sunday School

10:30AM

Childcare Available

GOOD TIDINGS

Lessons from a snowman



- * It's okay to wear white well after Labor Day.
- * Simply hanging out in your front yard can be fun.
- * Accessories don't have to be fancy or expensive.
- * We're all made mostly of water.
- * You know you've "arrived" when a song is written about you.
- * So what if you're a little bottom-heavy?
- * Don't get too much sun.
- * Sweating too much can be disastrous!

How to Contact Good Tidings

Good Tidings is the responsibility of Communications Ministry and assembled by team members, volunteers and Church Staff. We depend on input from the other ministries, staff, and members of the congregation. If you wish to have an article published in Good Tidings, please submit your article or information to someone on

the team or drop it in the Communications Chairperson's drop box in the Church office. Articles may also be emailed to the kglow72@gmail.com. In order for the article to appear in the next month's newsletter, it needs to be into the drop box by the 20th of each Month. Articles submitted after that date will

appear in the next issue, assuming the articles are not date sensitive. Remember that we depend on your input in order to be able to have information to publish

"Never trust
anyone completely
but God. Love
people, but put
your full trust only
in God."

—Lawrence Welk