

Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church

GOOD TIDINGS

December 2017

Special points of interest:

- Christmas Services
-

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We boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, (Romans 5:2-4)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Happy New Year! OK, I'm not as crazy as I might seem. The Church operates on a different kind of calendar than the rest of the world. The world's calendar revolves around the sun in the sky – always beginning on January 1 and ending on December 31. The Church's calendar revolves around God's Son, Jesus. The year begins with a type of pregnancy before Jesus' birth on Christmas. This "pregnancy" is called Advent. This year, Advent (and thus the Church calendar) begins on Sunday, December 3. So – Happy New Year!

For most of us, the new year brings a sense of hope. In fact, the theme for the first Sunday of Advent is hope. In the midst of the shortening days, the onset of colder weather, and the threat of snow in the air, lighting an Advent candle in hope is the Church's way of shaking a fist at the coming darkness. If we think about it, for most of us the weeks leading up to Christmas have always been related to hope. When I was a child, before there was such a thing as "online" shopping, we would receive the Sears and Montgomery Ward Christmas catalogs. I can still smell the fragrance of those pages as I would skip through the boring clothing and houseware sections and find the toys. I would dog-ear the pages of the toys that interested me most in the hope that my mother would take notice.

Paul, in his letter to the Romans, reminds us of the power of hope (see above). That hope does not come cheaply, however. That hope is formed and strengthened by our experiences of challenge. Challenges (sufferings) are not always bad. They make us stronger and they give us a memory that says, "We can get through this." That is the definition of hope.

Last month, I invited you to share your stories of where you have seen God in motion in your life. I have asked that at least 40 of you look back in your life and ask, "Where have I seen God's fingerprints in my life?" When we begin to see those fingerprints in our past, we can begin to see God in motion in our present. That gives us hope. We have a God who so loves us that He came down into this world in the person of His Son, Jesus, to live with us. God is here! He is present! We are not alone! That gives us hope.

Finally, for most of us the new year reminds us of our need for change. Sometimes that means a new diet or exercise plan. Sometimes that means a new spiritual practice. Sometimes that means getting our financial house in order. Shepherd of the Hill is offering a way to address the financial aspects of your life. On Saturday, February 3rd, we will begin a 9-week course entitled *Financial Peace University*, a DVD series hosted by Christian financial analyst Dave Ramsey.

What if you knew where all of your money was going each month? What if you were debt-free, investing and making wise spending decisions? With Dave Ramsey's class, *Financial Peace University*, you CAN take control of your money and start planning for your future. If you're interested in learning more about the class, let us know. More information will follow. We want to build lives and stories of hope.

Happy New Year!

Pastor Jon



I love Christmas, I have always loved Christmas. I grew up as the youngest of four children. My parents had this rule on Christmas morning. You couldn't open any presents until everyone was awake, and people could sleep in as long as they wanted. I must have been about 6 on one particular Christmas morning. As usual I was the first one up. I would go into the living room and sit staring at my pile of wrapped presents, trying to guess what they would be. Soon I was joined by my mom, dad, brother and one of my sisters. My oldest sister, however, was sleeping in. I grew impatient of waiting in the living room and convinced my brother and sister that we should go wait for her to wake up. We gathered around her bed and whispered "Is she awake yet", "I thought I saw an eye", "she just moved maybe she's awake." Needless to say she soon woke up and was ready to join us to open our presents.

This year Christmas is coming quickly, although for me not quickly enough. I am excited for this year's Sunday School Christmas program "A Traditional Christmas Pageant". Our Sunday School children have begun to practice in anticipation of. On December 17th our Sunday School youth will be telling the story of Jesus's birth. Angels, Wiseman, and Shepherds will join us in worship as we remember the miracle of Christ's birth. Following the Christmas Program we will have a potluck in the basement. The youth will provide a main course of fried chicken. There is a sign up in the narthex or you can email the church office at soth.office@shepherdofthehill.com so that we know how much food to order. Please bring a dish to share if you are able, we will be taking a free will offering to help cover the costs of our youth camps and trips for the summer of 2018.

As we wind down the year I want to give thanks to God for the number of ways he is at work in our ministries. Through volunteers, bringing youth together, and providing ways for them to encounter God we have seen God at work in our ministry. Amen.

Mike Markwell
Youth Ministry Coordinator



?? ? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ?

After Mary learned she was pregnant with God's Son, what relative — also miraculously pregnant — did she go visit?

- A. Esther
- B. Elizabeth
- C. Anne
- D. Anna

Answer: B (See Luke 1:39-41.)





The preschoolers at SOTH have been very busy preparing for the holidays. During the month of November, the students made Native American headbands, necklaces and Thanksgiving placemats to prepare for the annual Thanksgiving feast. On Feast Day, the children shared a meal of chicken nuggets, carrots, grapes, cubed cheese, pudding, apple sauce and corn bread which was made during class time.

This month, the students in the four year old program are preparing for the annual Christmas program which will be presented on Sunday, December 17th at 4:00 p.m. Doors will open at 3:45 p.m. On December 15th, the children in the three year old program have invited their families to a "Trim A Tree" party. The families will sing a few Christmas songs, enjoy a special snack and create an ornament for the Christmas tree. All our busy little elves are busy making Christmas presents for their families. At the end of the month, the students will enjoy decorating cookies, playing games and working on an art project during their Christmas parties. Thank you for your continued support throughout the year.

The staff at SOTH wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.
 God Bless You All,
 The SOTH Preschool Staff



Sunday, December 10, 6:30pm

La Posada: Walking with Joseph and Mary to the Manger

The singing of traditional Christmas carols with a Latin twist.

Tamales and Christmas cookies included

December 17
 10:35 a.m.

Our Sunday school will provide the sermon.

There will be no 9:00 service on this day.

Potluck following the Service.
 The Youth will provide the main course. We invite those attending to bring side dishes and desserts.

Worship Services
 4th Sunday in Advent:

Saturday, December 23rd
 5:00pm

Sunday, December 24th
 10:35am

The will be no Sunday 9:00am service this weekend

Christmas Eve
 Candlelight
 Services

December 24:
 5:00pm
 10:30pm

Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church Council Minutes **Tuesday, November 21, 2017**

President Steve Kirk called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

Present: Steve Kirk, Rick McManis, Amber Gayhart, Dennis Wellsandt, Dave Helfert, Pastor Jon Pedersen, Nell Pieper, Tom Gustafson and Phil Sleezer.

Absent: Ken Bobek.

Special Order of Business/ Guests

Patricia Shue (representative of the ELCA) was in attendance. She was there to thank our congregation for our support of the synod and to encourage continued support in 2018. She also asked how the synod could further assist our congregation. She indicated that there were financial grants available for new ministries within a congregation.

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

Minutes of the October 17 Council meeting were approved prior to the meeting via email.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Wellsandt presented a financial report for the month of October. Wellsandt called October a “good month” with a positive balance; however, weekly offerings still are behind where we hoped to be at this point of the year.

Pastor’s Report (Highlights): Pastor Pedersen presented his monthly report. He highlighted the following:

On October 21, the initial training for the Visitation Group took place, led by Pastor and Tom Reddig. Fifteen individuals are participating.

The new members class began on November 2. On December 3, somewhere between 15-20 individuals will join Shepherd of the Hill.

On December 2, a workshop on Wills, Trusts and Planned Giving will take place.

From December 29 through January 5 Pastor will be in California ... part work – part vacation.

The mission trip to Nicaragua will take place January 20-28. Some fundraising still needs to be done.

Youth Ministers Report:

Council received the Youth Ministry Coordinator’s report from Mike Markwell. It included a schedule of activities through mid February.

A pasta dinner is scheduled for Ash Wednesday.

There are currently 5 high school youth signed up for the 2018 mission trip to Green Bay, WI in July. Mike has reserved an additional three places, which he hopes to fill. The fundraising goal for this trip is \$2,800.

President’s Mailbox

President Kirk received a letter from Rev. Kurt Nordby (Assistant to the Bishop for Stewardship and Development) thanking us for support of the Northern Illinois Synod – ELCA.

Ministry Team Reports:

Communications (Tom Gustafson): The Committee met on Saturday, November 11. The new web site is up and running. There were no recommendations to Council.

Evangelism/Fellowship and Caring and Learning and Youth (Amber Gayhart/Rick McManis):

The committee is still considering possible 2018 events, which may include a 5K Walk/Run, participation in Feed My Starving Children, and a Bunco night. The Palm Squad will present “Born in a Barn” during the Christmas season.

Stewardship (Pastor Pedersen): The annual stewardship drive is in process.

Preschool (Nell Pieper): No meeting took place.

Property (Phil Sleezer): The primary concern is the state of our heating system. There are problems with pumps and motors. Firms that were contacted were not willing to provide a firm estimate, quoting only “time and materials,” because it is difficult to determine how deep the project might go. Jim Forbes estimated that the cost might run between three and nine thousand dollars. However, a new HVAC system is hopefully in our near future ... thus the reluctance to commit additional monies at this point.

Worship (Pastor Pedersen): Pastor is hoping that all Council members will participate in the “faith testimonies/telling stories” initiative.

Congregational Ministry Teams:

Finance/Audit (Dennis Wellsandt): The Audit Committee met in October to audit the 3rd quarter.

Memorial Gifts (Nell Pieper): The Committee is looking into the different rooms in the church to see if they could use some cleaning or “sprucing up.” They plan to clean up and organize the downstairs storage room and purchase necessary shelving. The hallway outside the office is another concern (accumulated “stuff”). Perhaps an “accordion door” would be a cosmetic improvement.

Personnel (Ken Bobek): No report. Ken was absent.

Nominations (Dave Helfert): An effort was made to better organize this process. Dave Helfert expressed “cautious optimism” that everything is going well.

Old Business:

Development of new SOTH Mission Statement (Pastor Pedersen and Amber Gayhart): Tabled – perhaps until spring.

HVAC/Plumbing update: We are hoping to get an update and a timetable in the near future. President Kirk will follow up on this.

Building Use form: Dave Helfert provided a Property Agreement Form/Facility Use Request form used by St. John’s Lutheran Church for Council’s consideration. Developing our own form(s) and policies is a project that will probably be spread out over several Council meetings.

New Business:

Church Protection: Because of the church shootings that have been in the headlines, there is some thought that we should be proactive in this area. President Kirk is reaching out to the Lockport Police Department for ideas and support.

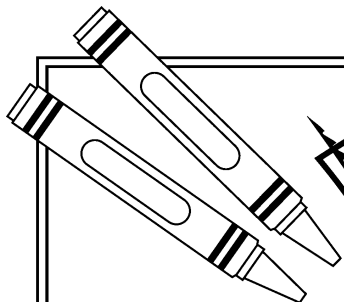
2018 budget: Treasurer Dennis Wellsandt presented a proposed budget for 2018. This budget was developed by the Executive Committee using income and expense data from the last 12 months. Wellsandt walked the Council through each line item in the budget, noting changes from last year’s budget and the reasons for those changes. A few minor adjustments were made in the proposed budget. Wellsandt made a motion to approve the proposed budget (2nd by Phil Sleezer). The budget was approved. Copies will be made available to the congregation and will be voted upon at the next congregational meeting.

Congregational Meeting on December 3 at 11:45 am.

Council Meeting: The next Council meeting will be on Tuesday, December 19 at 6:30 pm.

Phil Sleezer moved for adjournment (2nd by Dave Helfert). The meeting adjourned at 9:14 and was closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Approved 11/23/17
MTG



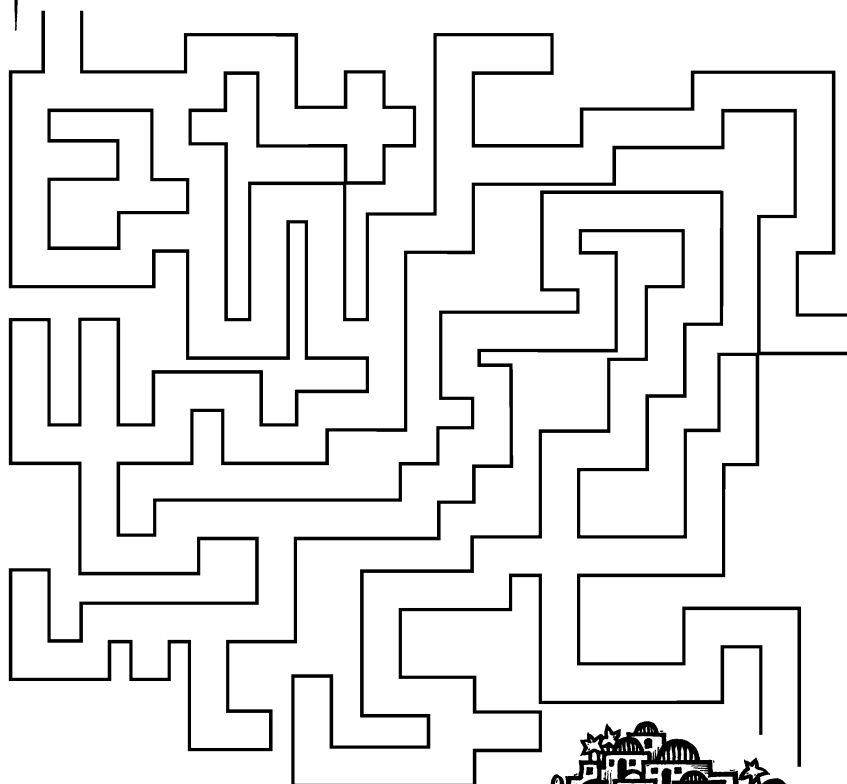
PUZZLE

JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

In the Christmas story in Luke 2, an angel tells some shepherds to go see baby Jesus in Bethlehem.

START

Directions: Follow the maze to arrive in Bethlehem.



BETHLEHEM

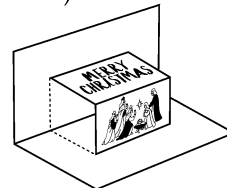


POP-UP CARD

Share the good news of Jesus' birth with this creative Christmas card.

What you need:




- Construction paper (two pieces, including one white)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Pens
- Glue stick



What you do:

1. Neatly fold the white paper in half, short side to short side.
2. Draw two parallel lines (at least 2 inches apart) from the fold to about halfway to the edge. Cut along the lines.
3. Fold the cut section back and forth so it pops up.
4. Push the section up so it pops up inside the folded paper. Draw a nativity scene on the pop-up box.
5. Fold the colored paper in half, short side to short side. Place the white paper inside it and glue the white paper down, being careful not to glue the pop-up box.
6. Write a Christmas message and give or send the card to someone.

December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
3 9am—Worship /Induct New Members 10:35am—Worship 10:35am—Sunday School Congregational Meeting After 2nd Service 12pm—Reverberations	4 7pm—Dartball	5 5:30/6pm—Weight Watchers Weigh-In/Mtg. 7pm—Worship Comm.	6 9:30am—Prayer Shawl 9:30am—Small Group 6pm—Shepherd Ringers 6:30pm—Confirmation 6:30pm—High School Ministry 6:30/7:30pm—AA 7:10pm—Chancel Choir	7 9:30am—Prayer Shawl 3:15pm—Tutoring Starts 7pm—New Members Class	1 9am—Mexican Train Dominoes	2 9am—Communications Committee 9am—Wills Workshop 5:00pm—Worship
10 9am—Worship 10:35am—Worship 10:35am—Sunday School 12pm—Reverberations 5:30pm—Allegro Bells 6:30pm—Posada	11 7pm—Dartball	12 5:30/6pm—Weight Watchers Weigh-In/Mtg. 6:30pm—Altar Guild 7pm—Preschool Board	13 9:30am—Small Group 6pm—Shepherd Ringers 6:30pm—Confirmation 6:30pm—High School Ministry 6:30/7:30pm—AA 7:10pm—Chancel Choir	14 9:30am—Prayer Shawl 3:15pm—Tutoring 5pm—Girl Scouts 6pm—Executive Comm. 7pm—New Members Class	15 9am—Mexican Train Dominoes 2pm—Ruth Circle Christmas Party	16 5:00pm—Worship
17 Only 1 Service 10:35am—Worship Youth Christmas Program Luncheon to Follow 12pm—Reverberations 4pm—Preschool Christmas Program 5:30pm—Allegro Bells	18 7pm—Dartball	19 5:30/6pm—Weight Watchers Weigh-In/Mtg. 6:30pm—Church Council 7pm—Deborah Circle	20 9:30am—Small Group 9:30am—Mom's Group B/S 6pm—Shepherd Ringers 6:30pm—High School Ministry 6:30pm—Confirmation 6:30/7:30pm—AA 7:10pm—Chancel Choir	21 9:30am—Prayer Shawl 3:15pm—NO Tutoring	22 9am—Mexican Train Dominoes	23 5:00pm—Worship
24 No 9am Worship 10:35am—Worship 10:35am—NO Sunday School 5pm—Christmas Worship 10:30pm—Christmas Worship 12pm—NO Reverberations 5:30pm—NO Allegro Bells	25  OFFICE CLOSED 7pm—NO Dartball	26 5:30/6pm—Weight Watchers Weigh-In/Mtg.	27 9:30am—NO Small Group 6pm—Shepherd Ringers 6:30pm—NO Confirmation 6:30pm—NO High School Ministry 6:30/7:30pm—AA 7:10pm—Chancel Choir	28 9:30am—Prayer Shawl 12pm—Caregiver Support Group 3:15pm—NO Tutoring	29 9am—Mexican Train Dominoes	30 5:00pm—Worship
31 9am—Worship 10:35am—Worship 10:35am—NO Sunday School 12pm—Reverberations 5:30pm—Allegro Bells	OFFICE CLOSED					



VOLUNTEERS: VERY VALUABLE!

Helper Schedule
December 2017 - February 2018

	Assisting Minister	Communion	Lay Reader	AV Operator	Ushers 9am	Counters Weekly
	9am Only	Assistant 9am	9am Only	All Services	Flink/Gaddis	
12/2-12/3	Nancy Monken	Dave Helfert Tina Baker	Heidi Habas	Sat. 5pm Paul Toso Sun. 9:00am Andy Neil Sun. 10:35am Susan Mead	Flink/Gaddis	John Yudt Ed Grabenhofer
12/9-12/10	Harold Sager	Nancy Baumgart Bill Bunting	Carole Ziemke	Sat. 5pm Jake Zacharias Sun. 9:00am Nathan Helfert Sun. 10:35am Kris Glowczynski	Flink/Gaddis	Chris Toso Sally Unmisig
12/16-12/17 1 Sun Service	Linda Bunting	Dan Gaddis Kirsten Mack	Donna Woods	Sat. 5pm Bryan Rauworth Sun. 10:35am Jerry Liston	Flink/Gaddis	Don Lawler Sharon Grabenhofer
12/23 Sat				Sat. 5pm Phil Sleezer		
12/24 Sun	Gary Wintersteen	Susan Mead Jan Rauworth	M. Wintersteen	Sun. 10:30am Kris Glowczynski	Flink/Gaddis	Chris Toso Ed Grabenhofer
Christmas Eve 12/24 5pm Service	Dave Helfert	L.Reed/J.Rigoni	Jan Sleezer	Sun. 5pm Bryan Rauworth	Lawler/Gaddis	John Yudt Sharon Grabenhofer
Christmas Eve 12/24 10:30pm		J.Rauworth/ D. Rothlisberger		Sun. 10:30pm Nathan Helfert	Fred/Gaddis	
12/30-12/31	Jeri Rigoni	D. Rothlisberger Harold Sager	Lynn Reed	Sat. 5pm Jake Zacharias Sun. 9:00am Susan Mead Sun. 10:35am Bryan Rauworth	Flink/Gaddis	Don Lawler Sharon Grabenhofer
1/6-1/7	Nancy Monken	Donna Woods Tina Baker	Jan Rauworth	Sat. 5pm Kris Glowczynski Sun. 9:00am Andy Neil Sun. 10:35am Jerry Liston	Flink/Gaddis	Chris Toso Ed Grabenhofer
1/13-1/14	Harold Sager	Dave Helfert Nancy Baumgart	Tina Baker	Sat. 5pm Jake Zacharias Sun. 9:00am Paul Toso Sun. 10:35am Susan Mead	Flink/Gaddis	John Yudt Sally Unmisig
1/20-1/21	Gary Wintersteen	Bill Bunting Dan Gaddis	Donna Rothlisberger	Sat. 5pm Kris Glowczynski Sun. 9:00am Nathan Helfert Sun. 10:35am Bryan Rauworth	Flink/Gaddis	Don Lawler Sharon Grabenhofer
1/27-1/28	Dave Helfert	Gary Haut Kirsten Mack	Gary Haut	Sat. 5pm Jake Zacharias Sun. 9:00am Paul Toso Sun. 10:35am Bryan Rauworth	Flink/Gaddis	Chris Toso Ed Grabenhofer
2/3-2/4	Gary Wintersteen	Susan Mead Jan Rauworth	Dave Helfert	Sat. 5pm Kris Glowczynski Sun. 9:00am Andy Neil Sun. 10:35am Mike Markwell	Flink/Gaddis	John Yudt Sally Unmisig
2/10-2/11	Jeri Rigoni	Lynn Reed D. Rothlisberger	Dan Gaddis	Sat. 5pm Paul Toso Sun. 9:00am Nathan Helfert Sun. 10:35am Bryan Rauworth	Flink/Gaddis	Don Lawler Ed Grabenhofer
2/17-2/18	Susan Mead	Harold Sager Nancy Baumgart	Gary Flink	Sat. 5pm Jake Zacharias Sun. 9:00am Andy Neil Sun. 10:35am Kris Glowczynski	Flink/Gaddis	Chris Toso Ed Grabenhofer
2/24-2/25	Nancy Monken	Tina Baker Dave Helfert	Mickey Callaghan	Sat. 5pm Paul Toso Sun. 9:00am Susan Mead Sun. 10:35am Bryan Rauworth		John Yudt Sally Unmisig

Executive Committee Members

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

Council Member

Ken Bobak Rick McManis
 Nell Pieper Amber Gayhart
 Phil Sleezer

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



12/1 Andrew Dickson
 12/2 Pamela Tarrant
 12/3 Jeff Bunting, Bill Dornick
 12/3 Sharon Grabenhofer, Amy Haut
 12/9 Perri Peters
 12/10 Donald Cartwright, Amanda Grabenhofer
 12/12 Jan Sleezer
 12/13 Diana Lewandowski
 12/14 Andrew Neil
 12/16 Nicholas Calderaro
 12/17 Robert Tracy
 12/18 Daniel Hausken, Leslie Rhode
 12/19 Samuel Marolda, Martha Pickering
 12/21 Kaitlyn Gray
 12/22 Linda Bunting
 12/23 Abigail Mack, Meghan Mack, Lynda Siezega
 12/25 James Naylor
 12/27 Marian Callaghan, Amber Piantek
 12/29 Ken Franz, Kirstin Mack
 12/30 Norman Kelm

Monthly Financial Report October

Income			
General	\$	32,966.19	
Loose Offering	\$	4,217.23	
Simply Give	\$	3,996.00	
SG fees	\$	(159.64)	
Building Usage-WW	\$	350.00	
Sunday School	\$	-	
Special Env	\$	-	
Income			\$ 41,369.78
Preschool-wages	\$	8,098.95	
Preschool -utilities	\$	700.00	
Endowment Fund	\$	1,500.00	
Special Projects	\$	335.00	
Debt Reduction	\$	7.50	
Fish Pantry	\$	20.00	
Musician	\$	125.00	
Gifts	\$	82.50	
Diaster Relief	\$	310.00	
Memorial Gifts	\$	50.00	
Income			\$ 11,228.95
Total Income	\$		52,598.73

Expenses			
Salaries/Benefits	\$	15,498.89	
Preschool-wages	\$	8,098.95	
Mortgage	\$	2,571.00	
Insurance	\$	1,429.09	
Child Care/Hospitality	\$	4,182.07	
Audio/Web	\$	97.97	
Narthex	\$	-	
Maintenance	\$	1,737.86	
Utilities	\$	1,586.87	
NI Synod ELCA	\$	-	Sept not paid until Nov.
Office Expenses	\$	506.56	
WW payment-Elana	\$	125.00	
Worship & Music	\$	1,580.93	
Learning/Youth	\$	1,363.46	
Memorial Gifts	\$	50.00	
Endowment/Evangelism	\$	1,500.00	
Total Expenses	\$	-	\$ 40,328.65
Total Income	\$		12,270.08



December 17 John & Anna Ter Horst
 December 18 William & Linda Bunting
 December 18 Phil & Nancy Mormann
 December 30 Gary & Amy Haut



Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church

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Email: soth.office@shepherdofthehill.com

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

Starts 9/10/17

10:30AM

Childcare Available

GOOD TIDINGS

The Giver



Many Christian families struggle with what role — if any — Santa Claus should play in their Christmas celebrations. No matter what you decide, it's fascinating to know the history of the real-life St. Nicholas.

Born about 270 A.D., Nicholas was a bishop in Myra, or modern-day Turkey. In the year 325, he was part of the Council of Nicaea, which produced the Nicene Creed.

Nicholas, known for his generosity, often gave away his money anonymously. According to tradition, he secretly provided dowries for the three daughters of a bankrupt merchant. Nicholas threw two bags of gold through open windows and placed the third in a stocking hanging by the fireplace to dry. Thus began the Christmas tradition of placing gifts in stockings.

St. Nicholas is quoted as saying, "The giver of every good and perfect gift has called upon us to mimic God's giving, by grace, through faith, and this is not of ourselves."

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

"The only blind person at Christmastime is he who has not Christmas in his heart."

—Helen Keller