

## GOOD TIDINGS

January 2018

**Special points of interest:**

- Youth Ministry
- Thank you Notes

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For most of us, there are three indicators as to what we consider valuable in our lives: our calendars, our checkbooks, and our daydreams. Our calendars tell us what is important by revealing the way we spend our time. Our checkbooks tell us what is important by revealing the way we spend our money. Our daydreams tell us what is important by revealing what we think about when our minds are not occupied with work or family. As you look at your calendar and checkbook, a good question to ponder is, "What controls what?" Do you control your family agenda or does it control you? Do you control your checkbook or does it control you?

To that end, we are offering an opportunity for you to learn skills in order to take control of your checkbook. Join us at *Financial Peace University* (FPU). Let God use FPU to change your 2018 for the better. Happy New Year!

Pastor Jon

### **Dave Ramsey's *Financial Peace University***

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. We're offering it at Shepherd of the Hill starting February 3rd, going through March 2018. *Financial Peace University* (FPU) is a nine-lesson class on money management taught by America's most trusted financial guru, Dave Ramsey. Dave and his teaching team will walk you through the basics of budgeting, dumping debt, planning for the future and much more. And now you can experience this life-changing class the way that's best for you: with other people in a local group, online at your own pace, or both!

Classes typically meet for 90 minutes once a week for nine weeks and are led by a volunteer coordinator. The accountability and motivation you receive from discussing the lessons and meeting people face-to-face is the key to changing your life! When you start *Financial Peace University*, you get immediate access to your online account which includes videos of Dave's teaching as well as additional reading and tools to help you manage your money faithfully.

### **When Will It Be Offered?**

Starting Saturday, February 3  
From 9am-10:30am, for 9 weeks, going thru March 31, 2018

### **What Is The Cost?**

Dave Ramsey's *Financial Peace University* is \$90 per couple.  
Scholarships are available, if needed.

### **How Do I Join?**

Contact Ed Grabenhofer at  
[edgrabenhofer@gmail.com](mailto:edgrabenhofer@gmail.com)  
or call the church office at 815-838-0708.



Wow, and just like that 2017 is over!

I feel it is important to give thanks to God for all the ways that he has been at work in our youth ministry and the whole ministry of Shepherd of the Hill. We pray that he continue to reveal his plan for our ministry, Amen.

Last January in my newsletter I outlined a few goals of the youth ministry. First was to start up a high school youth group. Our goal was to have something on a weekly basis that would be ready for our students who were completing confirmation in the fall. We completed that goal as we kicked off our youth group this fall. We consistently had around 6 youth attend weekly. We look forward to that group continuing to grow. Our goal for the high school group is to continue to deepen the relationships the students have with Christ and to the church community. We look forward to what 2018 will continue to bring us.

Another goal of 2017 was to increase the number of volunteers who work with our youth programs. In order to continue to expand programming and to reach more youth we needed new volunteers especially people to take over leading 6<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation with the addition of the high school group on Wednesday nights. We also saw new volunteers in our VBS, Sunday School, and F% ministries.

After careful prayer and thought I have laid out the following goals for our youth ministry in 2018:

**The addition of a two weekend retreats, one for high school and one for confirmation.**

Our summer camps and trips have provided a great opportunity for our youth who have attended to build strong relationship with each other and grow closer to God. For a number of reasons not every youth is able to attend a summer mission trip or Confirmation camp. A goal for the 2018-2019 schoolyear will be to add two separate weekend retreats one for confirmation students and one for high school students, to provide more youth with the opportunity to encounter God in these unique ways.

**Foundation youth ministry visioning team**

Over the past few years it has been a dream of mine to have a team in place that is a collection of various stake holders in our youth ministry program including volunteers, parents, and youth. They would meet a few times a year to continue to brainstorm and vision the grand picture of the youth ministry here at Shepherd of the Hill. To look at what our mission, vision, and goals of our youth ministry are and to help ensure that our programming continues to point us in that direction. As we continue to look at the big picture of how best to serve families in Lockport it is important that we look for input and voices of those we look to serve and those who are invested as volunteers.

**Continuing to expand and equipped our volunteers**

Volunteers are one of our greatest assets to the youth program. Continuing to recruit new volunteers and to equip them to better serve our youth is a continued goal of ours. From VBS to Sunday school to confirmation none of our youth programs would be successful without the gifts and time that our volunteers bring to these programs.

**Bringing back our monthly youth outings**

As we pushed to expand our youth programming with the addition of the high school group this fall one of the things that got dropped from our youth program was a monthly outing. These were lock-ins, or service projects, or fun activities throughout the year. In 2018 I would like to bring these back, they will most likely be on Fridays or Saturdays. They provide a great chance for our youth to serve and connect to God in different ways and are also great opportunities for our youth to introduce friends to our ministry.

Thank you to all the volunteers and parents who have helped to continue to make our youth ministry possible. I would also like to thank the congregation for their continued support of our youth. Continue to pray for our ministry as we look forward to another year of serving youth and families of Lockport.

Mike Markwell  
Youth Ministry Coordinator



### THANK YOU!

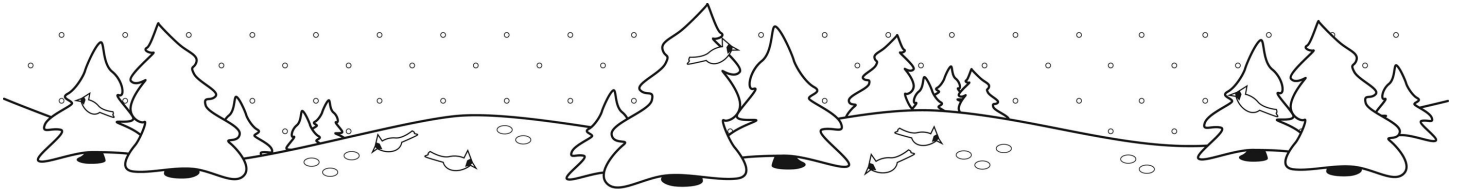
*Those of us traveling to Nicaragua in January want to express our gratitude for your response to our "Sweet Treat" between services on December 10<sup>th</sup>. Your generosity is overwhelming. Please continue to keep us in your prayers. Thank you!*

Dear Members of SOTH,

Thanks be to God for the generous outpouring of gifts that Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church experienced the weekend of 12/2 and 12/3 as we celebrated the commitment of gifts for our ministry next year. Over these past several weeks, our discipleship and stewardship emphasis, *First, We Give of Ourselves, Giving in Gratitude* has led us in our exploration and consideration about being disciples of Jesus and growing in giving in gratitude. We celebrate each day, God's rich grace in our lives and how we give of ourselves in response to God's gift of grace in Jesus Christ. Our Celebration and Commitment Sunday was a day of joy, delight, and thanksgiving as we received commitments toward our mission and ministry for the coming year at Shepherd of the Hill.

Please join us in celebrating our ministry and growing in discipleship.

Thanks be to God for all that is happening at SOTH! Thank you too, for all you do in our ministry together.



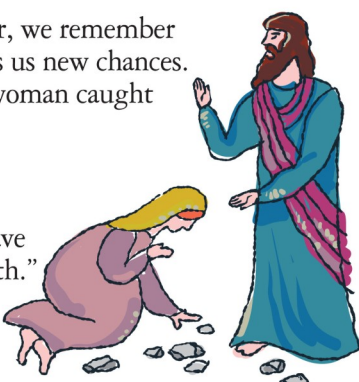
"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." —Martin Luther King Jr.

?? ? ?

## Bible Quiz

At the start of a new year, we remember that God continually gives us new chances. What does Jesus say to a woman caught in adultery?

- A. "Go, and from now on sin no more."
- B. "Not even in Israel have I found such great faith."
- C. "Peace be with you."
- D. "Tell no one what I have done for you."



Answer: A (See John 8:11.)



## **Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church Council Minutes**

### **Tuesday, December 19, 2017**

President Steve Kirk called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

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

Absent: Ken Bobek and Dave Helfert.

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

Minutes of the November 21 Council meeting were approved prior to the meeting via email.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer Wellsandt presented a financial report for the month of October. November giving was somewhat less than had been anticipated and there was a deficit for the month.

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

At our November meeting Council did not vote to approve members that joined Shepherd of the Hill on December 19. On a motion by Phil Sleezer (2<sup>nd</sup> by Nell Pieper), Council corrected that oversight by approving membership for:

Gary and Muriel Nelsen  
Fuss family (5)  
Jill House and Shane Nelson family (3)  
Kelly Bostjancic  
Mary Brauer  
Judi McGann  
Bob Mander  
Tim and Ellen Houseward

The faith statements/stories have been coming in. Still looking for more!

From December 29 through January 5 Pastor will be in California ... part work – part vacation. Dave Helfert will be covering the series of Lessons and Carols on December 30-31. Pastoral coverage will be provided by Mike Markwell and Dana O’Brien (Cross of Glory).

Pastor Pedersen will be participating in a retreat in Iowa from January. 8-11.

The mission trip to Nicaragua will take place January 20-28. Pastor Dana O’Brien will cover any emergencies.

From February 3-March 1 we will be offering the Financial Peace University program. Sessions will be conducted weekly and will be taught by Ed Grabenhofer.

### **Youth Ministers Report:**

Council received the Youth Ministry Coordinator’s report from Mike Markwell. It included a schedule of activities through March. The youth will be hosting an Ash Wednesday pasta dinner and will be involved with the soup suppers held during Lent.

On December 17 a potluck was put on by the youth. They collected a freewill offering for youth camps and trips. They raised \$413. Nearly 120 people attended the dinner. The youth helped serve and, of course, cleaned up!

In his report, Mike took the opportunity to thank the congregation and council for their continued support.

### **President’s Mailbox**

President Steve Kirk received a request from Susan Mead to use the church parking for cookie “drive-thru” delivery (Girl Scouts) in February. Following a motion by Nell Pieper (2<sup>nd</sup> by Rick McManis) this request was approved.

President Kirk received a “letter of intent” form (2018) from Pastor Kurt Nordby (Northern Illinois Synod – ELCA). This form is basically our pledge of financial support to the synod for the coming year. Council will complete this form at their January meeting.

Communications (Tom Gustafson): The Committee held their scheduled December meeting. There were no recommendations to Council.

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

They are seriously considering a 5K Walk/Run in the spring.

They would like to have one “family fun night” every month.

Stewardship (Pastor Pedersen): The annual stewardship drive has been completed. Eighty-two pledges were received ... about the same as last year.

The Endowment Committee is in need of two new members,

Preschool (Nell Pieper): No recommendations to Council.

Property (Phil Sleezer): Two maintenance requests from the pre-school were taken care of.

Metal racks have been assembled to assist in de-cluttering the storage room.

The Property Committee assisted in the decoration of the church for Christmas.

Worship (Pastor Pedersen): No recommendations to Council.

### **Congregational Ministry Teams:**

Finance/Audit (Dennis Wellsandt): Dennis and Lois Reil have been working together to “fine tune” problems with our accounting program (Shepherd’s Staff).

Memorial Gifts (Nell Pieper): The Committee will be holding a work day in January or February. No recommendations to Council.

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

Nominations (Dave Helfert): Dave was absent. Pastor reported for David ... “it looks like things are coming together.” We need two more people to serve on the Personnel Committee as well as two more for the Endowment Committee.

### **Old Business:**

HVAC/Plumbing update: No update is available. Things are not moving as quickly as hoped.

Building Use form: Development of this instrument will be left for the next Council

### **New Business:**

Congregational Meeting on January 28 at 11:45 am. This meeting is for elections to Council and other committees.

Lenten/Advent Project – Tom Gustafson: Tom asked the Council to consider sponsoring a special Advent or Lenten project (or both?) each year. After some discussion it was agreed that we have a “giving tree” next Advent. Tom will take the lead.

Welcome Bags: This came together under the initiative of Carole Ziemke and was approved by Council’s Executive Committee. Just a “little something” for guests to take home after visiting Shepherd of the Hill.

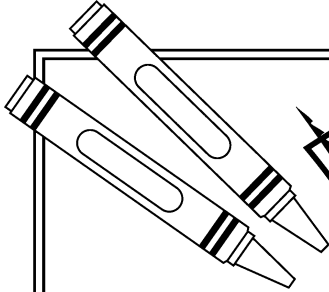
Dennis Wellsandt moved for adjournment (2<sup>nd</sup> by Nell Pieper). The meeting adjourned at 7:56 and was closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Approved 12/20/17  
Tom Gustafson/Secretary

# J



# JANUARY 2018



## PUZZLE

### A NEW CREATION



The apostle Paul says everyone who believes in Jesus becomes brand new.



*Directions: Cross out every third letter. Then write the remaining letters in the blanks to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.*

THIEROEFQORXEIDFAMNYAON  
SEILSITNCVHRKISDTTBHEWNE  
QWCDREYATMIOCNHFASWCOR  
MEGTHWEOFLDXHASSGZONL  
ETJHEWNEQWIDSHREROE

\_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ :

\_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ! 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:  
The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV



## NEW YEAR'S NOISE-MAKERS

Ring in the New Year with these fun noisemakers!



#### What you need:


- Wooden craft sticks
- Metallic paint (gold and silver)
- Paint brushes
- Jingle bells (gold and silver)
- Hot glue gun
- Metallic ribbon
- Scissors
- Adult help

#### What you do:

1. Paint half the sticks gold and half silver. Let dry.
2. Glue three bells to each stick.
3. Cut a six-inch piece of ribbon for each stick. Tie a bow and glue it to the noisemaker. Celebrate!



# January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1 Office Closed for Holiday</b> Preschool out, returning 1/8	<b>2</b> 5:30/6pm—Weight Watchers Weigh In/Mtg.	<b>3</b> 9:30am—NO Small Group 3:15pm—NO Tutoring 6:00pm—NO Shepherd Ringers 6:30/7:30pm—AA 6:30pm—NO Confirmation 7:10pm—NO Chancel Choir	<b>4</b> 9:30am—Prayer Shawl	<b>5</b> 9:30am—Mexican Train Dominoes	<b>4</b> 5:00pm—Worship
<b>7</b> 9:00am—Worship 10:35am—Worship 10:35am—Sunday School 11:30am—Beginner Bells 12pm—Reverberations 5:30pm—Allegro Bells	<b>8</b> 7:00pm—Dartball	<b>9</b> 5:30/6pm—Weight Watchers Weigh In/Mtg 7:00pm—Preschool Board	<b>10</b> 9:30am—NO Small Group 3:15pm—Tutoring 6:00pm—Shepherd Ringers 6:30/7:30pm—AA 6:30pm—Confirmation 6:30pm—High School Youth 7:10pm—Chancel Choir	<b>11</b> 9:30am—Prayer Shawl 7:00pm—Exec. Committee	<b>12</b> 9:00am—Mexican Train Dominoes 4:30pm—Girl Scouts	<b>13</b> 5:00pm—Worship
<b>14</b> 9:00am—Worship 10:35am—Worship 10:35am—Sunday School 11:30am—Beginner Bells 12pm—Reverberations 5:30pm—Allegro Bells	<b>15</b> 7:00pm—Dartball	<b>16</b> 5:30/6pm—Weight Watchers Weigh In/Mtg 6:30pm—Altar Guild 6:30pm—Church Council 7:00pm—Deborah Circle	<b>17</b> 9:30am—Small Group 9:30am—Mom's Group B/S 3:15pm—Tutoring 6:00pm—Shepherd Ringers 6:30/7:30pm—AA 6:30pm—Confirmation 6:30pm—High School Youth 7:10pm—Chancel Choir	<b>18</b> 9:30am—Prayer Shawl	<b>19</b> 9:00am—Mexican Train Dominoes	<b>20</b> Delegation Leaves for Nicaragua 5:00pm—Worship
<b>21</b> 9:00am—Worship 10:35am—Worship 10:35am—Sunday School 11:30am—Beginner Bells 12pm—Reverberations 5:30pm—Allegro Bells	<b>22</b> 7:00pm—Dartball	<b>23</b> 5:30/6pm—Weight Watchers Weigh In/Mtg. 7:00pm—Ruth Circle	<b>24</b> 9:30am—Small Group 9:30am—Mom's Group B/S 3:15pm—Tutoring 6:00pm—Shepherd Ringers 6:30/7:30pm—AA 6:30pm—Confirmation 6:30pm—High School Youth 7:10pm—Chancel Choir	<b>25</b> 9:30am—Prayer Shawl 12:00pm—Caregiver Group 5:00pm—Girl Scouts	<b>26</b> 9:00am—Mexican Train Dominoes	<b>27</b> 5:00pm—Worship
<b>28</b> 9:00am—Worship 10:35am—Worship 10:35am—Sunday School 2nd Cong. Meeting after 10:35am service 11:30am—NO Beg. Bells 12pm—Reverberations 5:30pm—Allegro Bells Delegation Returns Home From Nicaragua	<b>29</b> 7:00pm—Dartball	<b>30</b> 5:30/6pm—Weight Watchers Weigh In/Mtg	<b>31</b> 9:30am—Small Group 9:30am—Mom's Group B/S 3:15pm—Tutoring 6:00pm—Shepherd Ringers 6:30/7:30pm—AA 6:30pm—Confirmation 6:30pm—High School Youth 7:10pm—Chancel Choir			



# 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



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

Ken Bobak                      Rick McManis  
Nell Pieper                     Amber Gayhart  
Phil Sleezer



January  
BIRTHDAYS



January  
ANNIVERSARIES

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## Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church

925 E. 9th St.  
Lockport, IL 60441

Phone: 815-838-0708

Fax: 815-838-2701

Email: [soth.office@shepherdofthehill.com](mailto:soth.office@shepherdofthehill.com)

Web page: [www.shepherdofthehill.com](http://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

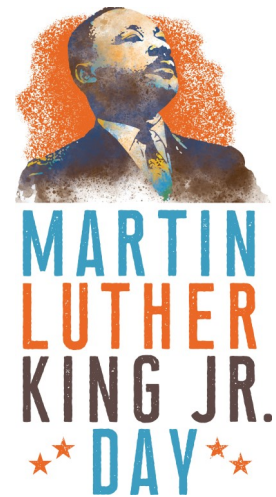
## GOOD TIDINGS

## The freedom of forgiveness

Martin Luther King Jr. called forgiveness "a permanent attitude," as opposed to "an occasional act." Maintaining a forgiveness mind-set leads to peace and freedom.

Author and pastor Max Anders experienced that freedom in seminary. After cheating on a Hebrew final, he was distraught and confessed his sin to God and the professor. "I felt deeply cleaned. Pure. Holy," Anders writes in *21 Unbreakable Laws of Life*. "I wanted to laugh and cry at the same time. I wanted to run and jump and dance. The burden was lifted. ... I was free!"

By contrast, he writes, "If we don't ask for forgiveness when we wrong someone, we lose our moral authority; the debris of sin begins to accumulate in our hearts, choking our conscience .... Others know when we sin against them, and if we don't make it right, it hurts our reputation as well as God's."



## 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](mailto: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

"Kindness is like  
snow — it  
beautifies  
everything it  
covers."

—Kahlil Gibran