

GOOD TIDINGS

February 2018

Special points of interest:

- Council Meeting Minutes
- New Council Members

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ASH WEDNESDAY

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On February 14 (yes, Valentine's Day), we celebrate the traditional beginning of the 40-day preparation for Jesus' resurrection, a.k.a. Lent. We begin with Ash Wednesday – a day that reminds us to lay down our masks and accept that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Then we take intentional steps to slow down and spiritually prepare to celebrate and cherish Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter.

This year, Lent corresponds (nearly to the day) with something else near and dear to my heart: baseball spring training. First workouts for pitchers and catchers will be on February 14 and opening day will be (for most teams) Maundy Thursday. Think a moment about the purpose of spring training. It is a time of year dedicated to conditioning and teaching and reinforcing the basics, all for the purpose of entering the season prepared. This is what Lent is for. Lent is a time when we go back to the basic spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting, Bible reading, service, giving, and worship all for the purpose of conditioning our lives for following Jesus.

This year our focus of Bible study for Lent will be Jesus' *Sermon on the Mount* in Matthew 5-7. The entire three chapter sermon will be divided up between the five Sundays and five Thursday mid-week Lenten services.

Matthew 5:1-12 – Beatitudes – Being Open to the Work of God.
Saturday and Sunday, February 17-18

Matthew 5:7-16 – Being Salt and Light in the Dark and Insipid
Lenten Service – February 22

Matthew 5:21-26 – Anger and Contempt
Saturday and Sunday, February 24-25

Matthew 5:27-37 – Living and Acting with Integrity
Lenten Service – March 1

Matthew 5:38-48 - Standing up to Enemies
Saturday and Sunday, March 3-4

Matthew 6:1-4 & 19-24 – True Treasures – Mis-ordered Loves
Lenten Service - March 8

Matthew 6:5-18 – Prayer and Fasting (Lord's Prayer)
Saturday and Sunday, March 10-11

Matthew 7:1-6 – Judging and Being Judged
Lenten Service - March 15

Matthew 6:25-34 – Worry and Life
Saturday and Sunday, March 17-18

Matthew 7:15-29 – Building Solid Foundations
Lenten Service - March 22

Besides these additional opportunities for worship and study, I invite you to consider a couple of other spiritual exercises. Do a daily reading of the three chapters of The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). The Bible is not a newspaper. It is not just a font of information. The Bible is God's word spoken to us. The more you slow down and read (reread) a passage, the more you will wade into its wisdom. Finally, I invite you to consider the traditional Lenten discipline of fasting – a temporary giving up of something you would normally consume for the 40 days of Lent. I encourage you to go beyond the normal giving up of the mundane (like chocolate or coffee) and choose something more substantive (like restaurants, TV, sports, or [dare I suggest] your cell phone). If applicable, keep track of the money you would normally spend on what you give up and contribute it to a charity at the end of Lent.

Spring training is coming! I mean Lent (sort of). How will you prepare?

With great love,
Pastor Jon



Greetings,

Over the next few months we will be having a number of community meals that serve as a large part of our fundraising for our youth's summer camps and trips. We will be hosting an Ash Wednesday Spaghetti Dinner, Lenten Soup and Sandwich Suppers, and Easter Breakfast. At all of the meals we will collect a free will donation.

Each summer we take our confirmation youth to Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center in Oregon, Illinois for a week of service projects, Bible studies, and experiencing God in unique ways. We also take an annual mission trip for our high school youth. This summer we will be taking the high school youth to Green Bay, Wisconsin. There they will serve elderly and low income residents by assisting with home improvement projects ranging from painting to building wheelchair ramps.

We feel that it is important to have opportunities for students to encounter God throughout the summer. We have developed a program for high school and confirmation that encourages students to spend a week at Confirmation Camp or the High School Mission trip. Both of these provide the opportunity for students to engage God and develop strong skills in Christian leadership as well as bonds with their church and peers.

We do not include any costs of the mission trip or confirmation camp into our annual budget. We do however want to make camp affordable for all of our youth. We host a number of fundraisers throughout the year. We have worked hard to keep the overhead of our fundraisers to \$0 through the use of Thrivent action team seed money and donated food and supplies, thus what you donate is fully applied to the kids trips.

Our fundraising goal is to cover half the cost of the trip for each youth that attends a trip or camp. The Budget per youth is \$400 for Confirmation Camp and \$700 for the mission trip, so we have goals of \$200 and \$350 per youth respectively. We also try to provide additional support to families who are in need.

We thank the congregation for your continued support of our youth. Here is a list of our meals during lent:

Date	Event	Time
2/14	Ash Wednesday Spaghetti Dinner	6:15pm
2/22	Lenten Soup and Sandwich Supper	6:15pm
3/1	Lenten Soup and Sandwich Supper	6:15pm
3/8	Lenten Soup and Sandwich Supper	6:15pm
3/15	Lenten Soup and Sandwich Supper	6:15pm
3/22	Lenten Soup and Sandwich Supper	6:15pm
3/29	Maundy Thursday	TBD
4/1	Easter Breakfast	10:15am

Mike Markwell
Youth Ministry Coordinator



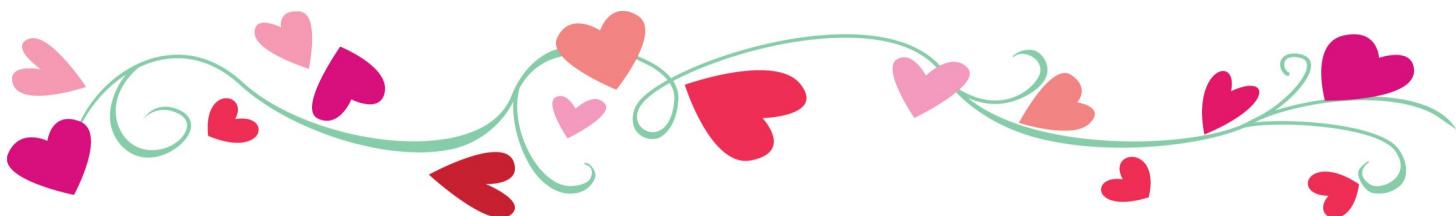


Let It Snow! The students in the four year old program enjoyed playing with snow in the water table. On January 18th, the students in the three year old program, teachers, grandmas and grandpas brought out their snow suits, hats, boots and sleds and enjoyed a sledding party.

In February, the students will be celebrating Valentine's Day by inviting someone special to school to sing songs, work on a craft project, eat pizza, and enjoy a day filled with fun. Throughout the month of February, the students will be looking behind couches and under floor mats to find pennies to donate to the TLC animal shelter. The money raised will provide food and supplies for the animals.

Registration is now open for the 2018/2019 school year. We have a well rounded program where children will develop academically, socially, and learn sound Christian values and concepts through prayer and Bible stories. An Open House is scheduled for Sunday, February 11th from 12:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. Please contact the office at 815-838-0708 for a registration packet or more information.

Thank you for your continued support.
The Shepherd of the Hill Preschool Staff



A repentant heart

Until we taste the bitterness of our own misery, we will never relish the sweetness of God's mercy. Until we see how foul our sins have made us, we will never pay our tribute of praise to Christ for washing us. ... If you would know the heart of your sin, then you must know the sins of your heart! —William Secker

Bible Quiz

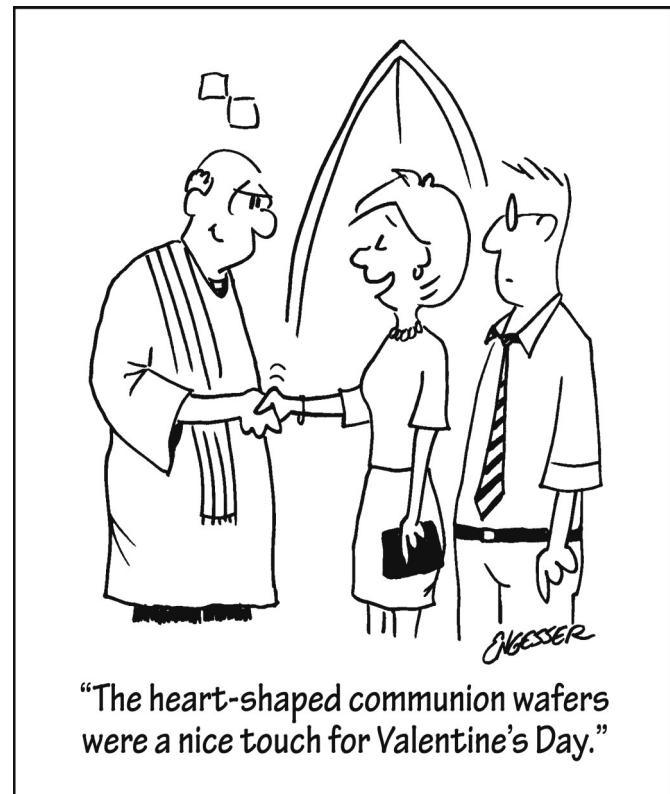
Paul declares that nothing “will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Which of the following does Paul specify as unable to block God’s love?

A. death; life
B. angels; demons
C. present; future
D. height; depth
E. all of the above

ANSWERS

ANSWER: E (See Romans 8:38-39, NIV.)

DEATH LIFE PRESENT HEIGHT DEMONS



Answer: E (See Romans 8:38-39, NIV.)

Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church Council Minutes

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

President Steve Kirk called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

Present: Steve Kirk, Ken Bobek, Amber Gayhart, Dennis Wellsandt, Pastor Jon Pedersen, Nell Pieper and Tom Gustafson.

Absent: Dave Helfert, Phil Sleezer and Rick McManis.

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

Minutes of the December 19 Council meeting were approved prior to the meeting via email.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Wellsandt presented a financial report for the month of December. Wellsandt said that it was a “positive” month. Income exceeded expenses by more than \$60,000. This income includes approximately \$32,000 in prepaid 2018 donations. Individuals chose to pay early as a result of changes in U.S. tax law.

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

The trip to Nicaragua will be from January 21-28.

The Financial Peace University program will be offered (Saturday mornings/weekly) February 3-March 31 and will be taught by Ed Grabenhofer.

Pastor and Sonya are volunteering one morning a month for the Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants in Kankakee.

Pastor’s goals for 2018 include the following. 1. A program to help young families develop faith habits with children. 2. Develop and train a group to visit shut-ins, do hospital visits, and reach out to our missing. 3. Develop partnerships outside of our walls, i.e. Nicaragua and Tanzania. 4. Develop a common understanding of mission and vision of the church. 5. Discern new options for “Sunday” school.

Youth Ministers Report:

Council received the Youth Ministry Coordinator’s report from Mike Markwell. It included a schedule of activities through April 1 (Easter Sunday/Breakfast). The youth will be hosting an Ash Wednesday pasta dinner and will be involved with the soup suppers held during Lent.

Goals for 2018 are: the addition of two weekend retreats, one for high school and one for confirmation; forming a youth ministry visioning team; continuing to expand and equip our volunteers; and bringing back the monthly youth outings.

Ministry Team Reports:

Communications (Tom Gustafson): The Committee held their monthly meeting on January 13. There were no recommendations to Council.

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

The committee is working on the “Easter Event” scheduled for March 31.

A 5K walk/run is tentatively scheduled for a Sunday in May.

Stewardship (Pastor Pedersen): There is presently approximately \$12,500 in the Endowment Fund. The Committee recently found out that we do not have to wait until we have \$25,000 before investing in the ELCA Foundation Fund. We can invest that money now. Payouts, however, will not begin until we reach the \$25,000 figure.

Preschool (Nell Pieper): Did not meet. No recommendations to Council.

Property (Phil Sleezer): No report. Phil Sleezer was absent

Worship (Pastor Pedersen): The Worship Committee met and planned for Lent.

Congregational Ministry Teams:

Finance/Audit (Dennis Wellsandt): The Audit Committee met on Tuesday (1/16).

Staff is working on getting out the 2017 offering statements.

Memorial Gifts (Nell Pieper): Did not meet. No recommendations to Council.

Personnel (Ken Bobek): No recommendations to Council.

Nominations (Dave Helfert): The work of the Nomination Committee for the January 2018 elections has been completed.

Old Business:

HVAC/Plumbing Update: The project is finally moving forward.

Building Use Form: Tabled until February.

Congregational Meeting: Elections are scheduled for the meeting on Sunday, January 28 (11:45 am).

New Business:

Statement of Commitment: Council completed a form for the Northern Illinois Synod indicating our goal for mission support in 2018.

Approval of Congregational Ballot: Ken Bobek made a motion to approve the ballot (2nd by Nell Pieper) for the congregational elections on 1/28/18.

Story Telling Event: Pastor requested Council's approval for a program to be presented at Shepherd of the Hill. The program is entitled "Keeping Faith: Three Sisters of Story." Their website summarizes the program. "*Three exceptional storytellers will share stories from their own faiths – Christian, Muslim and Jewish – to transcend differences through a shared belief in the power of compassion and connection.*" The program would take place on Friday, April 13. On a motion from Dennis Wellsandt (2nd by Tom Gustafson) this program was approved.

Council Meeting: The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 20 (6:30 pm).

Nell Pieper moved for adjournment (2nd by Nell Denis Wellsandt). The meeting adjourned at 7:45 and was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Tom Gustafson/Secretary



FEBRUARY

2018



A NEW COMMANDMENT

In John 13:34, Jesus offers important instructions for his followers.

Directions: Figure out the pattern in each vertical line of letters. Then add the next letter in the sequence to the blank underneath, completing John 13:14, NIV.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZABCD...

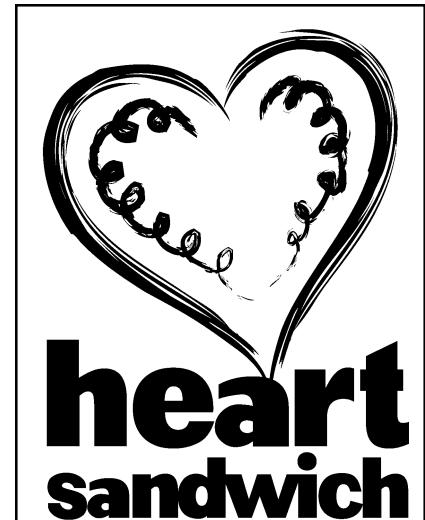
F	L	S	Y	F	K	Y	X	E	I	Q	B	V	O	0	J	F
H	M	T	A	I	L	A	Y	H	K	R	D	Y	P	S	M	G
J	N	U	C	L	M	C	Z	K	M	S	F	B	Q	W	P	H
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E	X	M	B	C	L	M	B	U	V	F	R	P	L	V	F	R
F	Y	P	C	F	M	P	C	X	W	I	S	Q	M	W	I	S
G	Z	S	D	I	N	S	D	A	X	L	T	R	N	X	L	T
"																

A	R	J	Q	C	C	S	B	F	K	Y	X	H	L	Q	B	Y	I
E	S	M	R	F	G	T	C	I	L	A	Y	J	M	R	D	A	L
I	T	P	S	I	K	U	D	L	M	C	Z	L	N	S	F	C	O
"																	

JOHN 13:34, NIV

Answer: "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34, NIV



Show your love by making someone this heartfelt snack on Valentine's Day.



What you need:

- 2 slices of bread
- 2 heart-shaped cookie cutters (one large, one small)
- Lunchmeat and cheese (or peanut butter and jelly)

What you do:

1. Cut a large heart out of each slice of bread.
2. Cut a small heart from the middle of one big heart.
3. With the small cookie cutter, make several heart shapes out of the meat and cheese. Place between the bread slices.
4. If you're using peanut butter and jelly, spread both onto the large, solid heart. Then place the slice with the small heart cutout on top.

February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<i>The Season of Lent</i>				
4 9:00am—Worship 10:35am—Worship 10:35am—Sunday School 11:30am—Beginner Bells 12pm—Reverberations 5:30pm—Allegro Bells	5 7:00pm—Dartball	6 5:30/6pm—Weight Watchers Weigh In/Mtg 7:00pm—Preschool Board	7 9:30am—Small Group 9:30am—Mom's Group B/S 6:00pm—Shepherd Ringers 6:30pm/7:30pm—AA 6:30pm—Confirmation 6:30pm—High School Youth 7:10pm—Chancel Choir	8 9:30am—Prayer Shawl 9:15pm—Tutoring 7:00pm—Exec. Committee	9 9:00am—Mexican Train Dominoes 4:30pm—Girl Scouts	10 8-11am—Girl Scout Cookie Pick Up 9am—Communication Committee 10:00am—Visitation Group Training 5:00pm—Worship
11 9:00am—Worship 10:35am—Worship 10:35am—Sunday School 11:30am—Beginner Bells 12pm—Reverberations 12-2pm—Preschool Open House 5:30pm—Allegro Bells	12 7:00pm—Dartball	13 5:30/6pm—Weight Watchers Weigh In/Mtg 6:30pm—Altar Guild 6:30pm—Church Council 7:00pm—Deborah Circle	14 9:30am—Small Group 11am—Ash Wednesday Service 6:00pm—NO Shepherd Ringers 6pm—Spaghetti Dinner—Youth 6:30pm/7:30pm—AA 6:30pm—NO Confirmation 6:30pm—NO H/S Youth 7pm—Ash Wednesday Service 7:10pm—NO Chancel Choir	15 9:30am—Prayer Shawl 3:15pm—Tutoring 5pm—Girl Scouts	16 9:00am—Mexican Train Dominoes	17 5:00pm—Worship
18 9:00am—Worship 10:35am—Worship 10:35am—Sunday School 11:30am—Beginner Bells 12pm—Reverberations 5:30pm—Allegro Bells	19 7:00pm—Dartball	20 5:30/6pm—Weight Watchers Weigh In/Mtg. 6:30pm—Council 7:00pm—Ruth Circle	21 9:30am—Small Group 9:30am—Mom's Group B/S 6:00pm—Shepherd Ringers 6:30pm/7:30pm—AA 6:30pm—Confirmation 6:30pm—High School Youth 7:10pm—Chancel Choir	22 9:30am—Prayer Shawl 12:00pm—Caregiver Group 3:15pm—Tutoring 6:15pm—Soup Supper 7pm—Lenten Service	23 9:00am—Mexican Train Dominoes	24 5pm—Worship
25 9:00am—Worship 10:35am—Worship 10:35am—Sunday School 11:30am—Beg. Bells 12pm—Reverberations 5:30pm—Allegro Bells a	26 7:00pm—Dartball	27 5:30/6pm—Weight Watchers Weigh In/Mtg	28 9:30am—Small Group 3:15pm—Tutoring 6:00pm—Shepherd Ringers 6:30pm/7:30pm—AA 6:30pm—Confirmation 6:30pm—High School Youth 7:10pm—Chancel Choir	 confession absolution fast sacrifice repentance absolution confess cross pray saint death Savior Lord Jesus forgiven sins Holy Week Lent Good Friday Holy Saturday Easter Sunday prepare forgiveness	 confession absolution fast sacrifice repentance absolution confess cross pray saint death Savior Lord Jesus forgiven sins Holy Week Lent Good Friday Holy Saturday Easter Sunday prepare forgiveness	 confession absolution fast sacrifice repentance absolution confess cross pray saint death Savior Lord Jesus forgiven sins Holy Week Lent Good Friday Holy Saturday Easter Sunday prepare forgiveness



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

Executive Committee Members

Steve Kirk President
 Rick McManis..... Vice President
 Amber Gayhart Secretary
 Dennis Wellsandt..... Treasurer

Council Member

Ken Bobak	Nell Pieper
Pricie Rogan	Tom Guftafson
Phil Sleezer	

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

Monthly Financial Report

December

Income			
General	\$	77,380.00	
Loose Offering	\$	7,291.00	
Simply Give	\$	1,770.00	
SG fees	\$	(47.08)	
Building Usage	\$	495.00	
Sunday School	\$	1.00	
Special Env	\$	10,787.00	
Income	\$		97,676.92
Preschool-wages	\$	7,982.02	
Preschool -utilities	\$	-	
Endowment Fund	\$	745.25	
Special Projects	\$	430.00	
Debt Reduction	\$	2.50	
Fish Pantry	\$	425.00	
Music	\$	50.00	
Gifts	\$	738.00	
Ornaments	\$	1,015.00	
Nicaragua	\$	50.00	
Income	\$		11,437.77
Total Income	\$		109,114.69

Expenses

Salaries/Benefits	\$	22,027.84	
Preschool-wages	\$	8,986.51	
Mortgage	\$	2,571.00	
Insurance	\$	1,429.00	
Child Care/Hospitality	\$	535.94	
Audio/Web	\$	78.99	
Sunday School	\$	128.99	
Maintenance	\$	1,530.90	
Utilities	\$	2,310.19	
NI Synod ELCA	\$	2,330.00	
Office Expenses	\$	199.99	
WW payment-Elana	\$	200.00	
Worship & Music	\$	1,104.21	
Learning/Youth	\$	365.95	
Total Expenses	\$	43,799.51	
Income less Expenses	\$	65,315.18	

Total income includes \$32,000.00 in prepaid 2018 donations



- 2/1 Ava Cully, Dorothy Gray
- 2/2 Kevin Crosse II, Michael Soderstrom
- 2/3 Elise Grazulis, Melissa Helfert, Stephanie Jones, Elise Kinder, Becky Phillips
- 2/4 Ryan Lata
- 2/5 Lisa Krueger
- 2/7 Karen Pintoy
- 2/9 Douglas Waldvogel
- 2/10 David Kuehl
- 2/11 Mary Brauer, Anthony Leno
- 2/12 Robin Zabelka
- 2/13 Lisa Bickus, Jean Cavanaugh, Ron Petrinos
- 2/14 Jason Phillips
- 2/15 Joan Butler
- 2/16 Lindsay Tarrant
- 2/17 Benjamin Likins, John Ter Horst
- 2/18 Carl Larson, Bryan Rauworth
- 2/21 Dwight Martino
- 2/23 Carol Cholipski
- 2/24 James Lake
- 2/27 Troy Gerrity, Jacob Habas, Andrew Heintzelman
- 2/28 John Bramlet



- 2/8 Joe & Kathy Rodak
- 2/13 John & Lois Teerling
- 2/15 Dennis & Lana Wellsandt
- 2/18 Janet & Thomas O'Grady



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"

GOOD TIDINGS



SERVICE SCHEDULE

Saturday

5:00PM

Sunday

9:00AM and 10:35AM

Sunday School

Starts 9/10/17

10:30AM

Childcare Available



The limited power of ashes

"The cross, with which the ashes are traced upon us, is the sign of Christ's victory over death," wrote Thomas Merton. "The words 'Remember that thou art dust and that to dust thou shalt return' are not to be taken as the quasi-form of a kind of 'sacrament of death' ... It might be good stoicism to receive a mere reminder of our condemnation to die, but it is not Christianity."

Perhaps we should structure Ash Wednesday worship with the imposition of ashes early on. Then their dusty symbolism can be supplanted by the forgiveness-flavored bread and wine of Holy Communion. Yet even if the service you attend is laid out differently, remember that ashes mark you only temporarily. Jesus' resurrection — and the empty cross of victory — assures you already of everlasting life, which begins now.

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

"Love doesn't make the world go round. Love is what makes the ride worthwhile."

—Franklin P. Jones