

## GOOD TIDINGS

September 2018

**Special points of interest:**

- diakonia
- Special Note from Mike

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**Grateful for Grandparents**

[www.shepherdofthehill.com](http://www.shepherdofthehill.com)

Greetings,

As most of you know for the past two years I have been taking classes at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago (LSTC), working towards my Master of Divinity degree with the eventual goal of ordained ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA). In addition to taking courses I have to complete three field education requirements. This fall I am completing Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) during which a few days a week I serve as a hospital chaplain. In addition to CPE I am completing my Ministry in Context (MIC) here at Shepherd of the Hill during the 2018-2019 school year, which is a 7 hour a week internship that will allow me to work on pastoral skills such as worship leading, preaching, and committee work. In the future I will have to complete a yearlong pastoral internship at another congregation.

In order to complete the above field education requirements, and to finish a year earlier than anticipated, I am reducing to half-time employment. This decision was made in conversation with Pastor Jon and subsequently approved by the Church Council. The focus of my position remains youth, grades 6-12, with attention also being given to Sunday School and our children's ministry. We have reallocated some of my administrative and technology responsibilities to accommodate for the reduction in hours. Therefore, we will be adding a part-time technology position to our staff, as well as delegating some responsibilities to volunteers.

I am excited to continue to serve Shepherd of the Hill's youth and families. We are continuing to strengthen our youth programming and be innovative in the ways that we approach caring for the religious education and spiritual needs of our youth, children, and families.

Mike Markwell  
Youth Ministry Coordinator



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

According to the gospel of Matthew, the first words that Jesus proclaimed as He began His earthly ministry were, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near” (Matthew 4:17). Later on, Jesus told His disciples, “Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come” (Matthew 6:10). Martin Luther, writing about the Lord’s Prayer in the Small Catechism, said this, “God’s kingdom comes indeed without our praying for it, but we ask in this prayer that it may come also to us.” An overwhelming theme of the teachings of Jesus is the Kingdom of God and we rarely talk about it.

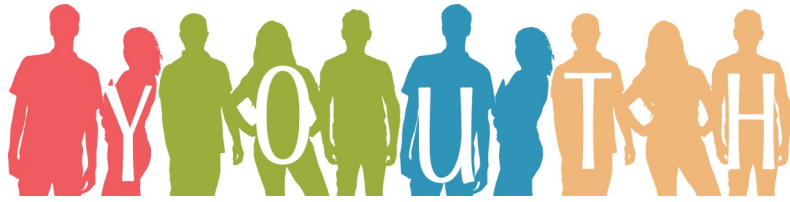
First of all, we need to define some terms. The Kingdom of God is NOT just someplace we go when we die. The Kingdom of God is a present reality that answers the question, “What would life be like – here and now – if all of the world recognized God as king and lived according to His desires?” We learn what that kingdom looks like by observing what Jesus did and said. He healed. He freed people from evil spirits. He spoke truth to power and hypocrisy. He raised people from the dead. He forgave. He included those who were excluded from normal society (women, Samaritans, lepers, tax collectors, etc.). He crossed ethnic and social boundaries. What does the Kingdom of God look like? It looks like this and more.

A few weeks ago, I attended a week-long class entitled, Kingdom Based Leadership. It was a class that – above all – challenged us pastors and congregations to become Kingdom-centered and not just congregation-centered. It was an invitation to think differently about our call as a congregation of the Church. Most of us who grew up in the Church have lived in congregations that were focused inward; we spent most of our time and money on the spiritual needs of the ‘members’ of the congregation. We are called to preach the gospel and administer the sacraments – to care for one another and to teach the faith to young and old alike. This is not bad; in fact it is necessary. But it is incomplete. We are called to be healed, strengthened, and equipped not for our own sake but for the sake of the world. We are called to be “equipped for the work of ministry and to build up the Church” (Ephesians 4:12) so that we can be ambassadors of God (of healing, forgiveness, inclusion, truth, etc.) to a broken world. We are called to be agents of the Kingdom of God.

This shift from congregation-centered to kingdom-centered will not be easy or fast. This is not just a new program for the fall. It is a process that will take years. But **every process needs a beginning and here is ours: let’s begin to think of our area of responsibility as not just the church building and grounds and what happens inside of it. Let’s think of our area of responsibility as the community that surrounds us**, our parish (to borrow a term from our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters). Our relationship with Milne Grove School and our work at the Lockport Resource Center and FISH Food Pantry is a beginning. These are excellent examples of what Kingdom work looks like. This next year will be a time of learning for all of us. Not only will we spend more time in the stories and teachings of Jesus, but we will ask other community leaders (police, school, health workers, etc.) to teach us what we need to know to work in this ‘parish’ of ours. I’m excited!

In Service of God’s Kingdom

Pastor Jon



Greetings,

Fall is here, at least the school year and the beginning of our fall programming. Our confirmation program is under way and Sunday School will begin on September 9th. As many of you know this past spring we conducted a survey for families who have elementary aged school children. For many years Sunday school has been in decline. This is not a problem specific to Lutherans or to Shepherd of the Hill, rather this is a problem that most ministries are facing large or small. There are many factors that have contributed to a decrease in Sunday school over the years, there is no one factor that has created the change, but in large part it is a reality that families are busier and busier and Sunday morning is no longer blocked off for church as games, tournaments, clubs, and other activities have encroached on Sunday morning or families simply find that Sunday morning is the only time they get to spend together as a family.

What the results of our survey show is that there is a desire for continued programming on Sunday morning. The survey also showed an openness to a midweek program that would provide a meal. We are going to pilot a new children's ministry this fall. Families will be invited to join us for a meal at 5:30 on the first Wednesday of the month, and then from 6:00-7:00 we will have a children's ministry that will more closely resemble Vacation Bible School then Sunday School. It will include high energy stations that children will rotate in to have the chance to play a game, hear the bible story, make a craft, or participate in music.

The three dates we will be this new ministry will be October 2, November 7, and December 5. After this fall we will evaluate the program and make a determination if we will continue it into the spring. Our goal for this ministry is to build off of the success we have seen with Wednesday nights during the summer, and to provide an option that will allow for more consistency amongst some of our young families. In order to not contribute further to the already packed schedules of families we are going to have a Sabbath weekend prior to the 1st Wednesday of the month and will not be having Sunday school.

We are excited to be launching this new program and hope to see new faces as well as ones familiar to us. If you have any questions please let me know.


Mike Markwell

Youth Ministry Coordinator

?? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ?

Who was Moses' father-in-law, and what was his occupation?

- A. Joshua; shepherd
- B. Miriam; tentmaker
- C. Aaron; farmer
- D. Jethro; priest



Answer: D (See Exodus 3:1.)



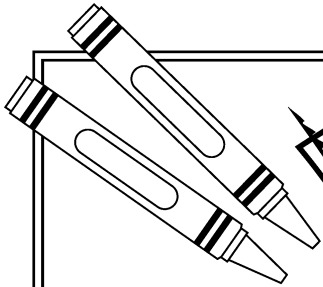
**WHOEVER**  
“ *is not against us* ”  
**IS FOR US.**

*Mark 9:40*

# S



# SEPTEMBER 2018



## PUZZLE

# IT'S A MIRACLE!

Jesus performed many amazing miracles during his earthly ministry.

*Directions: Match the words and pictures of different healings, from one column to the other. Then fit the word pairs in the blanks below to complete Matthew 11:5, NIV.*



blind



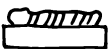
leprosy



lame



deaf



dead

hear



walk



raised



sight



cleansed



The \_\_\_\_\_ receive \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_, those  
who have \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_ ...

MATTHEW 11:5, NIV

Answer: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised ... Matthew 11:5, NIV

## Miracles happen!

Create this colorful reminder of God's wondrous works.





### What you need:

- white cardstock
- white wax crayon
- paintbrush
- water
- watercolor paints

### What you do:

1. Across the paper horizontally, write with the white crayon "Miracles happen!" (or a Bible verse such as Job 5:9; Psalm 77:14; Jeremiah 32:27; or Matthew 19:26).
2. Wet the paintbrush and paint over the words with different colors.
3. Let dry and then hang up.

# September 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> 5:00pm—Worship
<b>2</b> 9:00am—Worship 10:35am—Worship	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> First Day for 4 Year- Old Preschoolers 5:30/6pm—Weight Watchers Weigh In/Mtg 7:00pm—Worship Comm.	<b>5</b> 9:30am—Small Group 9:30am—Prayer Shawl 6:00pm—Chancel Choir Rehearsal/Dinner 6:00pm—6/7/8th Grade Confirmation 6:30pm—HS Youth Group 6:30/7:30 pm—AA 7:00 pm—9th Grade Confirmation	<b>6</b> First Day for 3-Year- Old Preschoolers 9:30am—Prayer Shawl	<b>7</b> 9:00am—Dominoes	<b>8</b> 9am—Comm. Mtg. 10:00am—Visitation Group Training 5:00pm—Worship
<b>9</b> 9:00am—Worship 10:30am—Sunday School Starts 10:35am—Worship 12:00pm—Pizza, Pop, Polishing	<b>10</b> 7:00pm—Dartball	<b>11</b> 5:30/6pm—Weight Watchers Weigh In/Mtg. 6:30pm—Altar Guild 7:00pm—Preschool Board	<b>12</b> 9:30am—Small Group 9:30am—Prayer Shawl 6:00pm—Shepherd Ringers 6:00pm—6/7/8th Grade Confirmation 6:30pm—HS Youth Group 6:30/7:30 pm—AA 7:00 pm—9th Grade Confirmation 7:10pm—Chancel Choir	<b>13</b> 9:30am—Prayer Shawl 7:00pm—New Members Class (for 6 weeks) 7:00pm—Executive Committee	<b>14</b> 9:00am—Dominoes	<b>15</b> 5:00pm—Worship
<b>16</b> 9:00am—Worship 10:35am—Worship 12:00pm—Reverberations Rehearsal	<b>17</b> 7:00pm—Dartball	<b>18</b> 5:30/6pm—Weight Watchers Weigh In/Mtg 6:30pm—Church Council 7:00pm—Deborah Circle	<b>19</b> 9:30am—Small Group 9:30am—Prayer Shawl 6:00pm—Shepherd Ringers 6:00pm—6/7/8th Grade Confirmation 6:30pm—HS Youth Group 6:30/7:30 pm—AA 7:00 pm—9th Grade Confirmation 7:10pm—Chancel Choir	<b>20</b> 9:30am—Prayer Shawl 7:00pm—New Members Class (#2)	<b>21</b> 9:00am—Dominoes	<b>22</b> 5:00pm—Worship
<b>23</b> 9:00am—Worship 10:35am—Worship	<b>24</b> 7:00pm—Dartball	<b>25</b> 5:30/6pm—Weight Watchers Weigh In/Mtg 7:00pm—NO Ruth Circle	<b>26</b> 9:30am—Small Group 9:30am—Prayer Shawl 6:00pm—Shepherd Ringers 6:00pm—6/7/8th Grade Confirmation 6:30pm—HS Youth Group 6:30/7:30 pm—AA 7:00 pm—9th Grade Confirmation 7:10pm—Chancel Choir	<b>27</b> 9:30am—Prayer Shawl 12:00pm—Caregiver Group 7:00pm—New Members Class (#3)	<b>28</b> 9:00am—Dominoes	<b>29</b> 5:00pm—Worship
<b>30</b> 9:00am—Worship 10:35am—Worship						





Date	Assisting Minister	Communion	Lay Reader	AV Operator	Counters Weekly	
	<b>9am Only</b>	<b>Assistant 9am</b>	<b>9am Only</b>	<b>All Services</b>		
9/1-9/2	Jeri Rigoni	Nancy Baumgart Bill Bunting	Heidi Habas	Sat. 5pm Jake Zacharias Sun. 9:00am Jerry Liston Sun.10:35am Aiden Grabenhofer	Ed Grabenhofer Don Lawler	
9/8-9/9	Kirstin Mack	D. Rothlisberger Gary Haut	Jan Sleezer	Sat. 5pm Paul Toso Sun. 9am Andy Neil Sun. 10:35am Bryan Rauworth	Sharon Grabenhofer John Yudt	
9/15-9/16	Susan Mead	David Helfert Dan Gaddis	Mickey Callaghan	Sat. 5pm Kris Glowczynski Sun. 9am Bryan Rauworth Sun. 10:30am Andy Mack	Sally Unmisig Don Lawler	
9/22-9/23	Jim Forbes	Jan Rauworth Bryan Rauworth	Susan Forbes	Sat. 5pm Jerry Liston Sun. 9am Susan Mead Sun. 10:30am Phil Sleezer	Ed Grabenhofer Sally Unmisig	
9/29-9/30	Linda Bunting	Lynn Reed Donna Woods	Dave Helfert	Sat. 5pm Jerry Liston Sun. 9:00am Nathan Helfert Sun. 10:30pm Aiden Grabenhofer	Sharon Grabenhofer John Yudt	
10/6-10/7	Gary Witnersteen	Tina Baker Jeri Rigoni	M. Wintersteen	Sat. 5pm Kris Glowczynski Sun. 9:00am Andy Neil Sun. 10:35am Bryan Rauworth	Sally Unmisig Don Lawler	
10/13-10/14 Oktoberfest	Jim Forbes	Harold Sager Nancy Baumgart	Susan Mead	Sat. 5pm Jerri Liston Sun. 9:00am Phil Sleezer Sun. 10:35am Aiden Grabenhofer	Ed Grabenhofer Chris Toso	
10/20-10/21	Kirstin Mack	Bill Bunting D. Rothlisberger	Linda Bunting	Sat. 5pm Jake Zacharias Sun. 9:00am Susan Mead Sun. 10:35am Andy Mack	Sharon Grabenhofer John Yudt	
10/27-10/28 Confirmation	Dave Helfert	Jan Rauworth Kirstin Mack	Gary Flink	Sat. 5pm Jerry Liston Sun. 9:00am Phil Sleezer Sun. 10:35am Kris Glowczynski	Sally Unmisig Don Lawler	
11/3-11/4 All Saints	Susan Mead	Gary Haut Nancy Baumgart	Donna Woods	Sat. 5pm Phil Sleezer Sun. 9:00am Susan Mead Sun. 10:35am Jerry Liston	Ed Grabenhofer Chris Toso	
11/10-11/11	Linda Bunting	Harold Sager Tina Baker	Lynn Reed	Sat. 5pm Kris Glowczynski Sun. 9:00am Nathan Helfert Sun. 10:35am Phil Sleezer	Sharon Grabenhofer John Yudt	
11/17-11/18	Gary Witnersteen	Susan Mead Donna Woods	Tina Baker	Sat. 5:00pm Paul Toso Sun. 9:00am Jerry Liston Sun. 10:35am Bryan Rauworth	Sally Unmisig Don Lawler	
11/24-11/25	Jeri Rigoni	Lynn Reed Jan Rauworth	Gary Haut	Sat. 5:00pm Jake Zacharias Sun. 9:00am Andy Neil Sun. 10:35am Aiden Grabenhofer	Ed Grabenhofer Chris Toso	
12/1-12/2	Dave Helfert	Nancy Baumgart Dan Gaddis	Kirstin Mack	Sat. 5pm Jake Zacharias Sun. 9am Susan Mead Sun. 10:35am Jerry Liston	Sharon Grabenhofer John Yudt	
12/8-12/9	Gary Wintersteen	Kirsten Mack	Dan Gaddis	Sat. 5pm Chris Glowczynski Sun. 9am Nathan Helfert	Chris Toso Ed Grabenhofer	
12/15-12/16	Kirstin Mack	Bill Bunting Gary Haut	Jan Rauworth	Sun. 10:30am Aiden Grabenhofer Sat. 5pm Kris Glowczynski Sun. 9:00am Bryan Rauworth Sun. 10:35am Phil Sleezer	Sally Unmisig Don Lawler	
12/22-12/23	Susan Mead	D. Rothlisberger Bryan Rauworth	Carole Ziemke	Sat. 5pm Phil Sleezer Sun. 9:00am Nathan Helfert Sun. 10:35am Jerry Liston	Ed Grabenhofer Chris Toso	
12/24 Christmas Eve (Tentative)	Dave Helfert	Tina Baker Lynn Reed	Heidi Habas	5:00pm Bryan Rauworth 5:00pm Nathan Helfert	Counters????	
12/24 Christmas Eve	Linda Bunting	Jan Rauworth Bill Bunting	Jeri Rigoni	10:30pm Bryan Rauworth 10:30pm Jerry Liston	Counters???	

### Executive Committee Members

Steve Kirk ..... President  
Rick McManis..... Vice President  
Amber Gayhart ..... Secretary  
Tim Houseward ..... Treasurer

### Council Member

Ken Bobak                Nell Pieper  
Pricie Rogan            Tom Guftafson  
Phil Sleezer

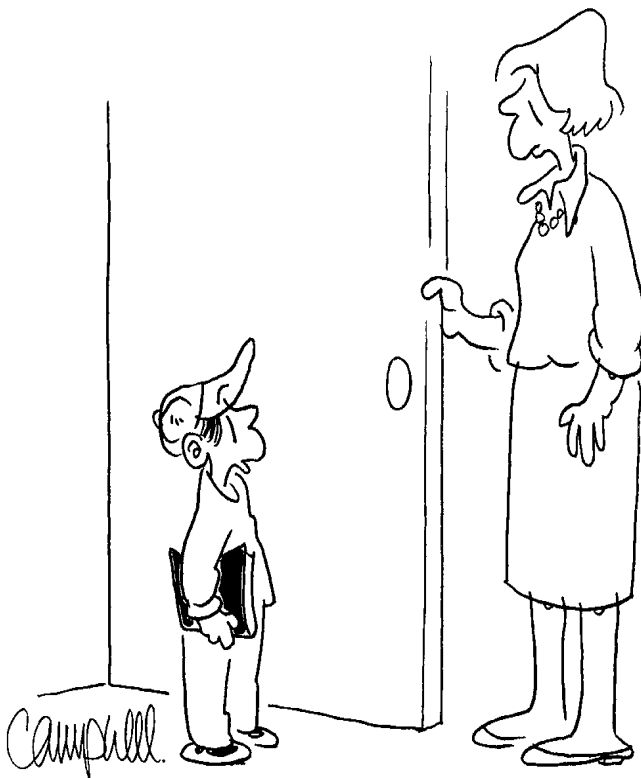
Council Meets the 3rd Tuesday of the  
Month at 6:30PM



9/2 Lilly Mazeika, Donald Skelton  
9/6 Kathy Rodak, Sally Unmisig  
9/8 John Anians Jr., Mariah Dicksen  
9/9 Sarah Mack  
9/10 Ida Lewandowski  
9/11 Jonathan Crosse, Abby Larson, Alyssa Leno  
9/14 Donna Gerrity, Ryan Soderstrom  
9/15 Ryan O'Grady, Andrew Zacharias  
9/16 Sandra Shrader  
9/18 Heidi Martino  
9/19 Charlie Krause  
9/21 Kathy Helfert  
9/22 Ellen Schroll  
9/23 Keegan Bramlet, James Waldvogel  
9/24 Ashley Phillips, Savannah Stanger  
9/25 Matthew Otis, Matthew Rauworth  
9/26 Lana Wellsandt  
9/27 Tina Baker, Ellen Houseward  
9/28 Charles Retusnic  
9/28 Nancy Slattery  
9/29 Michael Meyers II, Daniel Pappageorge  
9/30 Tyler Bockholdt, Elisabeth Mead



9/3 Larry & Tina Baker  
9/5 Kris & James Retusnic  
9/11 Scott & Kathleen Likins  
9/15 Donald & Vada Cartwright  
9/23 Dwight & Heidi Martino  
9/23 John & Marilyn Yudt  
9/27 Jim & Cheryl Zacharias  
9/30 Michael & Diana Lewandowski



"If you think the Lord moves in mysterious  
ways, you should see long division."



## Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church

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### Mission

"To Know Jesus And To Make Jesus Known"

### Vision

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



## SERVICE SCHEDULE

### Sunday

9:00AM and 10:35AM

### Wednesday

Thru August 8th  
6:30PM

Our Saturday Service will  
resume on August 18th

### Sunday School

(resumes September 9th)  
10:30AM

Childcare Available



### **diakonia™ Is Coming!**

Are you ready to take the next step in your growth as a Christian and in your service to your congregation and community? If so, you are looking for **diakonia™**! The next series of courses will meet on Tuesdays, beginning September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018, at St. John Lutheran Church, 2650 Plainfield Rd., Joliet, IL.

#### **What is the diakonia™ program?**

**diakonia™** is a two-year process of spiritual formation and theological education for baptized members of the Lutheran Church. This process occurs in three basic ways:

- ❖ By thorough grounding in the classic seminary disciplines of practical, systematic, historical, and Biblical theology;
- ❖ By identifying particular skills and aptitudes in ministry and encouraging their use in the local parish and community; and
- ❖ By providing spiritual growth through worship, retreats, and a supportive community of fellow students, pastor-mentors, and instructors.

These are the tools **diakonia™** uses to help equip God's people for service in parish and neighborhood ministries. The primary theme and focus of the **diakonia™** experience is the word of Jesus in scripture: "Let the one who would be great among you be your servant [Greek: *diakonos*]" (Mark 10:4).

#### **For More Information**

Contact Dr. Trenton Ferro, Location Manager, at [trferro@yahoo.com](mailto:trferro@yahoo.com) or (724) 762-0305.

## 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

"No thief, however skillful, can rob one of knowledge, and that is why knowledge is the best and safest treasure to acquire."

—L. Frank Baum