

GOOD TIDINGS

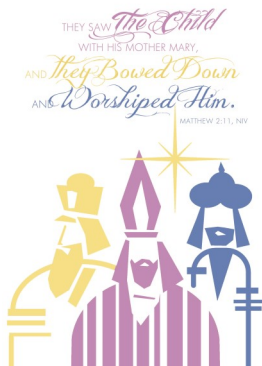
December 2018/
January 2019

Special points of interest:

- Christmas Services
- The Posada
- Sunday School Christmas Program

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"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . What has come into being in Him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. . . And the Word became flesh and lived among us." (John 1:1, 4-5, 14)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For the first couple of winters after we had moved to Lockport, Sonya and I had to answer the same question over and over again, "Why would you ever want to move from the warmth of California to an Illinois winter?" I would always answer the same way, "I really don't mind the snow and the cold as much as I mind the dark." (You will have to ask Sonya how she would respond.) I do NOT like it when the sun sets at 4:20 p.m. It has taken a couple of years, but I have come to appreciate the need to put up Christmas lights outside our home. Christmas lights are a way to declare to the encroaching darkness of winter, "I am going to push back against you. You can come this far and no further."

Light is an important part of the season of Advent (the four weeks of preparation before the coming of Christmas). As we inch closer to the longest nights of the year, we light candles in anticipation of the coming of the true "Light of the World," Jesus Christ. Advent is a season of the Church that serves the same purpose as the Christmas lights we put up outside of our homes. In the season of Advent, God whispers to the darkness of our spiritual natures affected by sin and hopelessness and says, "You can come this far and no further." Together with God, we light the candles of Advent to push back against sin, hopelessness, and darkness.

Some ask, "Why don't we just skip Advent and go directly to Christmas?" Here is where I return to the answer I give to those who ask me about Illinois winters. While I am not a fan of the dark of winter, I am a HUGE fan of the light and color of spring. Give me spring and Easter over winter and Christmas any day of the week. However, without the dark of winter, I would not appreciate the return of the light. Without the bleak white and brown of this season, I would take for granted the colors of the next season. Without the knowledge of my sin, I would not appreciate the nature of God's forgiveness and grace. Ask any cancer survivor about their life journey and – more often than not – you will hear of a greater appreciation of life, love, and family now than from before. This doesn't mean that the time of darkness and struggle is easy. On the contrary – it is very hard. But God gives us hope – that hope is called Advent.

Join us as we celebrate HOPE! Join us as we – together with God – push back against the darkness.

December 3-4 – Fund raiser at *Sizzles* (see the flyer included in this newsletter).

December 16 – Sunday School Christmas Pageant – 10:35 a.m. followed by a meal.

December 16 – Una Posada (Christmas caroling with a Latin twist) – 6:30 p.m., followed by tamales. (Hmmm, I'm sensing a pattern; hope comes with food attached.)

December 24 – Christmas Eve – 5:00 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.

December 29-30 – Services of Lessons and Carols – Sat. at 5:00 p.m., Sunday at 9:00 and 10:35 a.m.

Have a hope-filled and light-filled Advent season!

Pastor Jon

December 16

10:35 a.m.

Our Sunday school will provide the sermon.

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

Potluck following the service.

The youth will provide the main dish. We invite those attending to bring side dishes and desserts.

Sign ups are in the narthex.



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 placemats to prepare for our annual Thanksgiving feast. On feast day, the children shared a meal of chicken nuggets, carrots, cubed cheese, pudding, grapes, apple sauce and corn bread and butter which were made during class time.

This month, the students in both the three and four year old programs are preparing for the annual Christmas program which will be presented on Sunday, December 16th at 4:00 p.m. Doors will open at 3:30 p.m. The students have been practicing special Christmas songs to sing for all the families and a performance by The PALM squad (the SOTH puppet group) will be enjoyed by all. It's time for Pajama Day. The four year old students will be having a cozy Christmas this year. The students will wear their pajamas to school and get cozy as they listen to stories, decorate cookies and sing Christmas songs. The three year old program students will play games, work on craft project and enjoy a special snack during their Christmas party.

SNOW, SNOW and more SNOW! The students in both programs are looking forward to having a sledding party with their families after a big snow fall. The snow will be sprayed with colored water and everyone will want to make a snow angel!

Registration for the 2019/2020 school year is now open to current preschool families. Registration will be open to the public on January 7, 2019. All interested families may contact the preschool office at 815-838-0708 for more information or to schedule a tour.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. The staff at SOTH wishes you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

God Bless You All,

Karen Pedigo, Director
The SOTH Preschool Staff



Christmas Caroling with a Latin twist

Sunday, December 16 at 6:30 p.m.

Shepherd of the Hill

Tamales! Yum!!

In case of inclement weather we will still meet indoors



Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

*December 24:
5:00pm
10:30pm*



Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church Council Minutes **Tuesday, November 20, 2018**

President Steve Kirk called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.

Present: Pastor Jon Pedersen, Steve Kirk, Amber Gayhart (Nickel), Tom Gustafson, Phil Sleezer, Pricie Rogan, Tim Houseward, Rick McManis

Absent: Nell Pieper, Ken Bobek

Special Order of Business / Guests: NONE

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

Minutes of the October 16th Council meeting were approved prior to the meeting, via email.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Houseward shared the account status and is working with Ken Franz on the monthly statement, along with the yearly budget report.

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

- Shared update from the November 18th the Community Thanksgiving Service at Congregational Church in Lockport – Sacred Celebration of Thanksgiving, about 100 people were in attendance.
- Services during December 1st & 2nd – Pledge Sunday, prayerfully consider current and future giving.
- December 16th will only have one service at 10:35am, Saturday, December 15th still as scheduled.
- Mike Markwell will be preaching on December 22nd and 23rd.

Youth Ministry Coordinator’s Report (Highlights): Mike Markwell shared his monthly report. The following updates are:

- November 18th – Operation Christmas Child boxes were collected, 74 boxes in total.
- December 16th – Sunday School Christmas Program and Youth Potluck will follow.
- Shared Sunday School evaluation with average of 15 kids per week, ages 3 through 5th grade.
- Faith Night info – October 3rd had 5 students participate, November 7th had 4 students participate and the next one is scheduling for Wednesday, December 5th.
- Mission trip update – reserved 12 spots for Middletown, Ohio (a suburb of Cincinnati) from June 23rd to 29th.
- Fundraisers – goal of \$5000 for Summer 2019 trips, with half raised through fundraising and other half through family contributions, first fundraiser will be December 16th
- Reminder of part time hours: Mondays from 8am-4pm, Wednesdays from 8am-8pm and in January, hours will change to Tuesdays from 8am-4pm and Wednesdays from 8am-8pm.
- No recommendations to council.

President’s Report: President Kirk’s mailbox is empty (meaning no information to share or report).

Council discussion of Ministry teams:

- a. **Communications (Pricie):** no updates to report, no recommendations to council
- b. **Community Builders aka Evangelism/Fellowship & Caring (Rick/Amber):**

- Sizzles Dinner Nights to support Shepherd of the Hill on Monday, December 3rd & Tuesday, December 4th, anytime from 11am – 9pm, located at 110 MacGregor Road, Lockport, IL 60441, (815) 524-4391 / Sizzles will donate 15% of your total order to Shepherd of the Hill / You must bring in or mention this flyer when ordering!
 - Bags of Hope update- will be looking for donations after the holidays, looking into a Panera Bread Family Dinner Night at the end of January and a donation box will set up there, along with in the Narthex during the last week of January.
 - Giving Tree – would like to implement four times a year, Christmas (just finished) / Spring (tie in with Teacher Appreciation week during first week of May with District 91) / Summer (around June 21st and looking for community ideas) / Fall (around September 21st and looking for community ideas)
 - Tutoring – started at Milne Grove, two days a week, about two students per tutor, looking for more tutoring support to lower student to tutor ratio.
 - Mental Health Seminar – SOTH will host and Troy Siewert (SOTH member and Orland Park Police Officer) will present on Saturday, February 16th from 8:30am – 4:30pm, will need no less than five participants and no more than 30 participants to sign up, FREE EVENT, publicizing will start after first of the year.
 - Estate Planning/Trust Development/Power of Attorney – consulting with Tim Urnest (from ELCA) and possible event in late January
 - Family Night – Minute to Win It Games on Saturday, February 2nd, following a Souper Bowl dinner and service.
- c. **Stewardship (Pastor):**
- About 200 cards are sent out / pledge cards will be collected starting December 1st/2nd service
- d. **Learning & Youth (Amber):** continuing to work closely with Mike Markwell, no recommendations to council
- e. **Preschool (Nell):** no report shared, due to absence
- f. **Property (Phil Sleezer):**
- Preschool lighting memo was shared, continuing to look at light surveys and sources
 - Boiler room work is continuing one pump
 - Lights on front of building were discussed. There are two lights on a timer and six lights are on a manual system, Brian Rauworth will be working on timing cycles connecting all lighting.
- g. **Worship (Pastor):** No recommendations to council.

Congregational Ministry Teams / Reports:

- a. **Finance/Audit (Tim)** – no updates to report, no recommendations to council.
- b. **Memorial Gifts (Nell)** – Pastor shared information of memorial gifts versus endowment no report, no recommendations to council.
- c. **Personnel (Ken)** – Ken shared the Personnel Ministry Team Annual Report with President Kirk due to his absence

Continued on next page →

Old Business:

- a. Mike's replacement beginning Summer 2019: no updates, will be working with Personnel Committee on updates from timeline submitted previously
- b. Budget Process: On November 14, 2018, via email all members were sent the following notice of invitation to attend the yearly congregational meetings. The first meeting will be Sunday, December 9, 2018 for Approval of the 2019 Operating Budget, immediately following the 10:35am worship service. Motion to approve budget by Rick & Tom (2nd)

New Business:

- a. Susan Mead's Girl Scout Troop Cookie pick up on 2/9/19
- b. Received and reviewed a letter, regarding the Minister of Music Education Fund, Motion made by Phil Sleezer for the budget item, Ministry of Music Continuing Education monies of \$1000.00 to be used at the discretion of Minister of Music, Tim (motion carried) and Rick (2nd)

Council agreed to adjourn meeting at 9:10pm and was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Motion to adjourn by Phil and Rick (2nd)

Council Meeting: The next Council meeting will be on Tuesday, December 18th at 6:30PM.

Amber Nickel-Gayhart / Secretary



A note of thanks:

A most sincere thank you to Shepherd of the Hill congregants for the monetary gift given to me on appreciation Sunday. It has been and continues to be my privilege to serve this congregation as minister of music.

Ellen Schroll



As many of you know as I continue to work toward the completion of my Master of Divinity degree, I have had to take a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE). During my unit of CPE, I have served as a chaplain at Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital in Downers Grove and participate in a learning group of fellow seminarians who are also serving as chaplains at the hospital.

As December is upon us, I am in the closing month of my CPE unit. These past three months have proven extremely formational for me. There is something about the experience of meeting with and visiting patients and families many of whom are having one of the worst days of their life.

What I particularly enjoy about the opportunity I have to make visits is how everybody has a story. Everybody has a story about how or why they are in the hospital, but more importantly everyone has a story that is their life. Sometimes I get the privilege of a patient deciding to tell me a snapshot of their story. Some stories, I'm told are blissful reminiscence. One patient recounted to as we watched the sunset out her husband's hospital window a vacation her and her husband took together when they were young. Her mother watched their kids and they drove down to Key West, Florida and sat at the end of a road and watched the sunset. A sunset so beautiful that she recalled everyone applauding when it was over. Some stories have a much more somber tone to them. A middle age patient I saw recently recounted the loss of her adult son.

These stories that I encounter tend to be surrounding grief. People in the hospital may be grieving from several things, the loss of a loved one or their own mortality, the loss of independence, or the grief around the disruption to what they had considered "normal". What I have learned is that there are many ways people experience and express grief.

I am grateful for the experience of CPE and what it has done to prepare me to continue in my ministry.

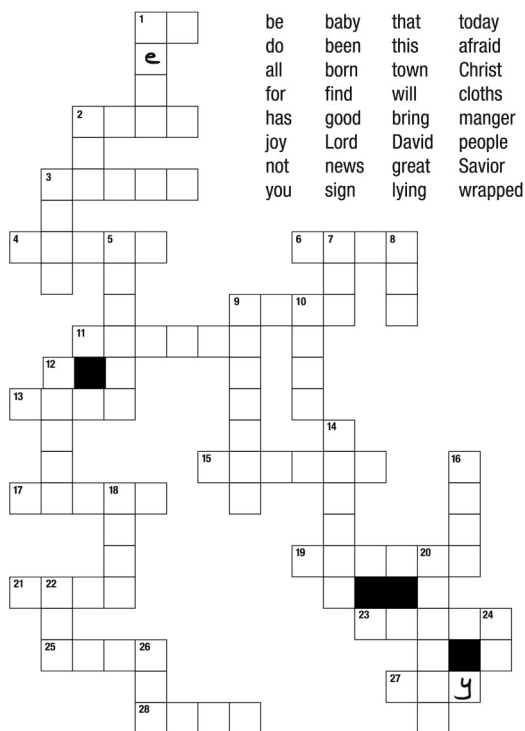
Mike Markwell
Youth Ministry Coordinator



December 2018 / January 2019

Puzzle!

The word list contains the angel's Christmas message to the shepherds. Fit those words into the crossword squares. Then write them on the correct lines below to complete Luke 2:10-11, NIV.



be do all for has joy not you
baby been born find good Lord news sign
that this town will bring David great lying
today afraid Christ cloths manger people Savior wrapped

"_____ . I _____ the _____ .
of _____ in the _____ of _____ a _____ to _____ ; he is _____ the _____ ."
30 8 19 10

Answer: "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11, NIV.

CHRISTMAS JOY

Make this fun decoration as a reminder of the joy Jesus brings.



What you need:

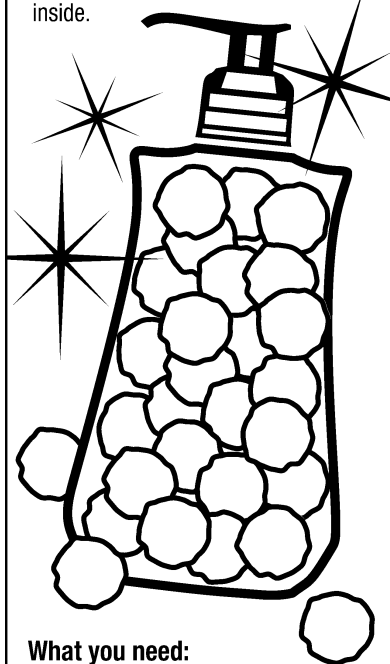
- Pencil
- Poster board
- Scissors
- Craft pompoms (red, white, green, silver, gold)
- Glue

What you do:

1. Trace large capital block letters J, O and Y on the poster board.
2. Cut out the letters.
3. Glue pompoms on one side of each letter, completely covering it.
4. Share JOY by displaying the letters in your home.

Washed Clean

Decorate a soap bottle as a reminder of how baptism cleans us on the inside.







What you need:

- Bottle of clear liquid hand soap
- Small craft pompoms (different colors)
- Wooden skewer

What you do:

1. Remove the bottle label and unscrew the lid.
2. Using the skewer, push pompoms down into the soap one at a time.
3. Replace the lid and put the dispenser in a bathroom or kitchen.

December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Pledge Sunday 9am—Holiday Decorat- ing 9am—Communicat. Mtg. 3:30pm—Wedding
2 Pledge Sunday 9am—Worship 10:30am—Sunday School 10:35am—Worship 11:40am—Beginner Bells 12pm—Reverberations 5:30pm—Allegro Bells	3 Sizzles Fundraiser 7pm—Dartball	4 Sizzles Fundraiser 5:30/6pm—Weight Watchers Weigh In/Mtg. 7:00pm—Worship Comm.	5 9:30am—Small Group 5:30pm—Faith Night 6pm—Shepherd Ringers 6:30pm—6/7/8 Confirmation 6:30pm—HS Youth Group 6:30/7:30 pm—AA 7:10pm—Chancel Choir	6 9:30am—Prayer Shawl 6pm—Executive Committee 7pm—Small Group/Men 7pm—Zacharias Cub Scouts	7 9am—Domingos 12:30pm—Staff Holiday Luncheon 4:30pm—Mead G/S	8 10am—Visitation Group 5pm—Worship
9 9am—Worship 10:30am—Sunday School 10:35am—Worship Congregational Meeting Community Bldg. Meeting 11:40am—Beginner Bells 12pm—Reverberations 5:30pm—Allegro Bells	10 7pm—Dartball	11 5:30/6pm—Weight Watchers Weigh In/Mtg. 6:30pm—Altar Guild 7pm—Preschool Board	12 9:30am—Small Group 9:30am—Prayer Shawl 6pm—Shepherd Ringers 6:30pm—6/7/8 Confirmation 6:30pm—HS Youth Group 6:30/7:30 pm—AA 7:10pm—Chancel Choir	13 9:30am—Prayer Shawl 5pm—Soderstrom G/S 7pm—Small Group/Woman 7pm—Cub Scouts	14 9am—Domingos 4:30pm—G/S	15 5pm—Worship
16 Only 1 Service 9am—NO Worship 10:30am—NO Sunday School 10:35am—Worship w/ Potluck 11:40am—Beginner Bells 12pm—Reverberations 3:30pm—Preschool Christmas Programs for 3/4 Year-Olds 5:30pm—Allegro Bells 6:30pm—Posada	17 7pm—Dartball	18 5:30/6pm—Weight Watchers Weigh In/Mtg. 6:30pm—Church Council 7pm—Ruth Circle	19 9:30am—Small Group 9:30am—Prayer Shawl 6pm—Shepherd Ringers 6:30pm—NO 6/7/8 Confirmation 6:30pm—NO HS Youth Group 6:30/7:30 pm—AA 7:10pm—Chancel Choir	20	21 9am—Domingos Choir Christmas Party & Caroling	22 5pm—Worship
23 9am—Worship 10:30am—Sunday School 10:35am—Worship 11:40am—Beginner Bells 12pm—Reverberations 5:30pm—Allegro Bells	24 Christmas Eve  5:00pm—Worship 10:30pm—Worship	25 Office Closed 	26 Office Closed 9:30am—NO Small Group 9:30am—NO Prayer Shawl 6pm—NO Shepherd Ringers 6:30pm—NO 6/7/8 Confirmation 6:30pm—NO HS Youth Group 6:30/7:30 pm—AA 7:10pm—NO Chancel Choir	27 Office Closed 9:30am—Prayer Shawl 12pm—NO Caregiver Group	28 Office Closed 9am—NO Domingos	29 5pm—Worship
30 Lessons and Carols 9am—Worship 10:30am—NO Sunday School 10:35am—Worship 11:40am—NO Beginner Bells 12pm—NO Reverberations 5:30pm—NO Allegro Bells						

The January calendar will be posted on our website (shepherdofthehill.com), e-mailed to our subscribed email list and copies will be available in Narthex when available. If you have any questions please contact the church office at (815)838-0708



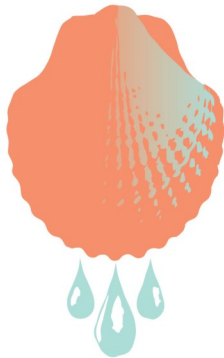
VOLUNTEERS: VERY VALUABLE!

Date	Assisting Minister	Communion	Lay Reader	AV Operator	Counters Weekly
	9am Only	Assistant 9am	9am Only	All Services	
12/1-12/2	Dave Helfert	Nancy Baumgart	Kirstin Mack	Sat. 5pm Jake Zacharias	Sharon Grabenhofer
		Dan Gaddis		Sun. 9am Susan Mead	John Yudt
				Sun. 10:35am Jerry Liston	
12/8-12/9	Gary Wintersteen	Kirsten Mack	Dan Gaddis	Sat. 5pm Chris Glowczynski	Chris Toso
				Sun. 9am Nathan Helfert	Ed Grabenhofer
				Sun. 10:30am Aiden Grabenhofer	
12/15-12/16	Not needed	Bill Bunting	Not needed	Sat. 5pm Kris Glowczynski	Sally Unmisig
Christmas	Only 1 Service	Gary Haut		Sun. 9:00am No Service	Don Lawler
Program				Sun. 10:35am Phil Sleezer	
12/22-12/23	Susan Mead	D. Rothlisberger	Carole Ziemke	Sat. 5pm Phil Sleezer	Ed Grabenhofer
		Bryan Rauworth		Sun. 9:00am Nathan Helfert	Chris Toso
				Sun. 10:35am Jerry Liston	
12/24	Dave Helfert	Tina Baker	Heidi Habas	5:00pm Bryan Rauworth	Counters????
Christmas Eve		Lynn Reed		5:00pm Nathan Helfert	
(Tentative)					
12/24	Linda Bunting	Jan Rauworth	Jeri Rigoni	10:30pm Bryan Rauworth	Counters???
Christmas Eve		Bill Bunting		10:30pm Jerry Liston	

Bible Quiz

According to the fourth Gospel, "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the _____."

- A. love
- B. life
- C. light
- D. Lord



Answer: C (See John 1:6-7, NRSV.)



"Tell Mom I'll stay home today
and do Sunday school online."



December

12/3 Susan & Eric Krause
 12/5 Kristy & Brandon Fuss
 12/18 William & Linda Bunting
 12/18 Phil & Nancy Mormann
 12/22 Michael & Audrey Bjerum
 12/30 Gary & Amy Haut

January

1/28 Charles & Donna Anderson

TRUST
 yourself
 TO THE
 God
 WHO MADE YOU

December

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
 12/11 Eric Krause
 12/12 Jan Sleezer
 12/13 Diana Lewandowski
 12/14 Andrew Neil
 12/16 Nicholas Calderaro
 12/17 Kristy Fuss, 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
 12/23 Lynda Siezega
 12/25 James Naylor
 12/27 Marian Callaghan, Amber Piantek
 12/29 Ken Franz, Kirstin Mack
 12/30 Norman Kelm

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

January

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



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

Saturday
5:00PM

Sunday
9:00AM and 10:35AM

Sunday School
10:30AM

Childcare Available

GOOD TIDINGS

A prayer for new beginnings

In his book *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth* (Fortress Press), Walter Brueggemann writes in an Epiphany poem:

... this is a time to be born.
So we turn to you, God of our life
God of all our years,
God of our beginning....
We dare pray that you will do for us
and among us and through us
what is needful for our newness.
Give us the power to be receptive,
to take the newness you give
There is a time to be born, and it is now.
We sense the pangs and groans of your newness.
Come here now in the name of Jesus. Amen.

How fitting that the Epiphany season and the new year coincide! Epiphany reveals a new King, the beginning of his ministry, his new disciples, his first healings, his "new teaching – with authority" (Mark 1:27). We, too, experience newness, now and year-round. But newness can be tough. So we trust that God, who "[makes] all things new" while banishing "mourning and crying and

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

"Pursue some path,
however narrow and
crooked, in which
you can walk with
love and reverence."

—Henry David
Thoreau