

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

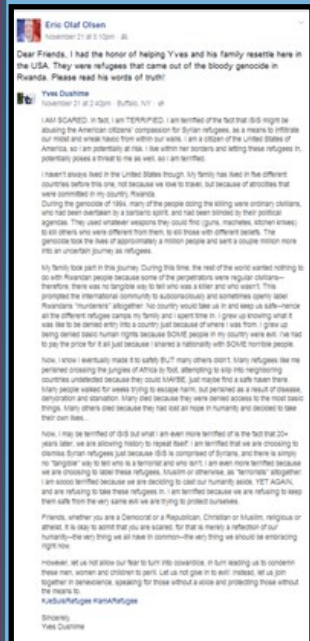


CELEBRATING 63 YEARS IN GOD'S SERVICE

**From the
Pastor**

Dear Faithful People of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church: and School,

**Let us not give
in to evil!
Instead, let us
join together in
benevolence,
speaking for
those without a
voice and
protecting
those without
the means to**



I had the honor of helping Yves and his family resettle here in the USA. They were refugees that came out of the bloody genocide in Rwanda. Yves & his family received Operation Christmas Child boxes while living in refugee camps in Africa. He is currently an ambassador for Franklin Graham's Operation Christmas Child ministry (see page 3 of this newsletter)

Please read his words of truth regarding the current refugee crisis:

[Yves Dushime](#)

[November 21 at 2:40pm · Buffalo, NY ·](#)

I AM SCARED. In fact, I am TERRIFIED. I am terrified of the fact that ISIS might be abusing the American citizens' compassion for Syrian refugees, as a means to infiltrate our midst and wreak havoc from within our walls. I am a citizen of the United States of America, so I am potentially at risk. I live within her borders and letting these refugees in, potentially poses a threat to me as well, so I am terrified.

I haven't always lived in the United States though. My family has lived in five different countries before this one, not because we love to travel, but because of atrocities that were committed in my country, Rwanda.

During the genocide of 1994, many of the people doing the killing were ordinary civilians, who had been overtaken by a barbaric spirit, and had been blinded by their political agendas. They used whatever weapons they could find (guns, machetes, kitchen knives) to kill others who were different from them, to kill those with different beliefs. The genocide took the lives of approximately a million people and sent a couple million more into an uncertain journey as refugees.

My family took part in this journey. During this time, the rest of the world wanted nothing to do with Rwandan people because some of the perpetrators were regular civilians-- therefore, there was no tangible way to tell who was a killer and who wasn't. This prompted the international community to subconsciously and sometimes openly label Rwandans "murderers" altogether. No country would take us in and keep us safe--hence all the different refugee camps my family and I spent time in. I grew up knowing what it was like to be denied

entry into a country just because of where I was from. I grew up being denied basic human rights because SOME people in my country were evil. I've had to pay the price for it all just because I shared a nationality with SOME horrible people.

Now, I know I eventually made it to safety BUT many others didn't. Many refugees like me perished crossing the jungles of Africa by foot, attempting to slip into neighboring countries undetected because they could MAYBE, just maybe find a safe haven there. Many people walked for weeks trying to escape harm, but perished as a result of disease, dehydration and starvation. Many died because they were denied access to the most basic things. Many others died because they had lost all hope in humanity and decided to take their own lives...

Now, I may be terrified of ISIS but what I am even more terrified of is the fact that 20+ years later, we are allowing history to repeat itself. I am terrified that we are choosing to dismiss Syrian refugees just because ISIS is comprised of Syrians, and there is simply no "tangible" way to tell who is a terrorist and who isn't. I am even more terrified because we are choosing to label these refugees, Muslim or otherwise, as "terrorists" altogether. I am soooo terrified because we are deciding to cast our humanity aside, YET AGAIN, and are refusing to take these refugees in. I am terrified because we are refusing to keep them safe from the very same evil we are trying to protect ourselves.

Friends, whether you are a Democrat or a Republican, Christian or Muslim, religious or atheist, it is okay to admit that you are scared, for that is merely a reflection of our humanity--the very thing we all have in common--the very thing we should be embracing right now.

However, let us not allow our fear to turn into cowardice, in turn leading us to condemn these men, women and children to peril. Let us not give in to evil! Instead, let us join together in benevolence, speaking for those without a voice and protecting those without the means to.

[#JeSuisRefugee](#) [#IamARefugee](#)

Sincerely,

Yves Dushime

Yours in Christ,



A MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Dear Friends & Family of our Good Shepherd Little Lambs:

As I think about all the things we do in preparation for the Christmas Season, I cannot help but feel that we get so caught up in hustle and bustle that we tend to lose the true purpose of the season and unwittingly ruin our own enjoyment of it. During this season of giving and receiving, as we purchase and wrap our gifts to others, we need to take a step back to consider God's gifts to us—all that He has given us and all that He has provided for us.

Last month when our faculty attended the Lutheran Schools Association educational workshops, one of the speakers asked us to write down a list of things we had done so far on that day. Like most of us, I began by waking up, brushing my teeth, getting the children dressed, having breakfast, dropping one child off at day-care, getting gas, driving to work, and then to the workshop. As I sat there writing my list, however, I began to feel overwhelmed by what I had yet to do—how many more things remained on that list that needed to be done once I got home. The list felt like it would go on forever and made me exhausted just thinking about it!

Well, many of you probably feel that way too. I see you literally running into the school building to drop off your child then run back to work or to do some errands only to return in a few hours to pick up your child. I see children like my own still chewing their breakfast, not having their hair brushed, rushing to get to school on time. We are always rushing, passing the time!

After only a few short minutes of writing this interminable list of what I had accomplished and what remained, time was up. The presenter instructed us to take a good look at what we had written and asked what we saw. Personally, I saw way too much left to do, but beyond that, as I listened to a colleague recite her list, it made me reflect upon my own, and I was able to see so many blessings insinuated by those chores: I have a warm house and bed to wake up in; I have running water to shower and brush my teeth; I have food in my refrigerator, coffee brewing; I have my children running around playing; I have clothes to wear; I have a dog to feed; I have a car to get me to work. I have; I have; I have—the list is endless!

Listening to this person read her list, I had an epiphany! I realized I have all these duties on my list as well. I am blessed! It is not an inconvenience; it is a blessing! We all need to stop and turn our approach to our daily chores into a positive, even if it's maneuvering through the crowded aisles of Shoprite! We all have so much to be thankful for. We have so much love to give and receive.

This exercise was a reminder for me (and you) to pause to reflect on all we have. . . all we take for granted. It reminds me to seize the present moment and to enjoy it! Stop and hug your spouse. . . your child. . . your friend. Think about how precious each moment is.

Christmas is a time of promise. God promised us Jesus. He gave us the gift of his only son. Let us together appreciate this gift of HIM. We are so blessed to have Him in our lives. Jesus is a reminder of God's promise during Advent. Let us wait for him with outstretched arms. Happy Birthday Jesus!

Merry CHRISTmas and may God bless you and your families this Christmas season.

Stephanie Brienza

Stephanie Brienza
School Director



ADVENT SPECIAL- SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, December 16
at 5:30 pm

Busy Bees, Good News Bears
& Butterflies

Thursday, December 17th
at 5:30 pm

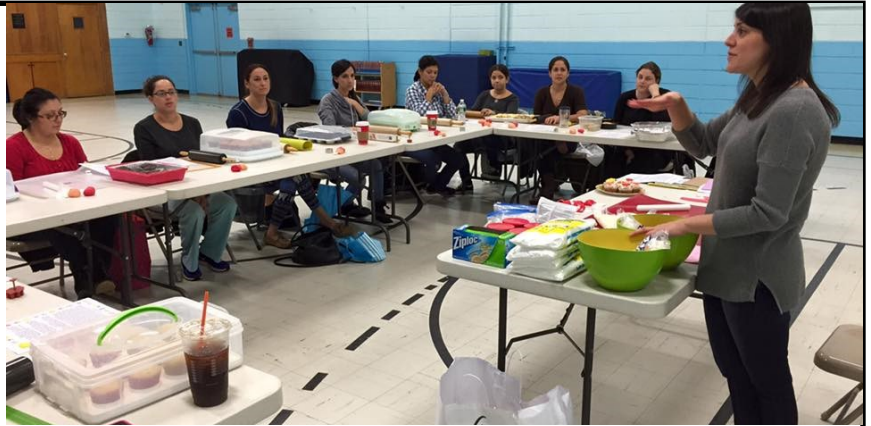
Owls & Love Bugs

Our children will be singing
and sharing the story of
Christmas at these very
special events!.



GIVING SUPPORT...AND BEING SUPPORTED! THANK YOU!

We raised \$195 on **Fondant Night** for the school playground canopy... We are getting closer and closer to our goal! Thank you for all who participated and supported this fundraiser. A special thank you to our teacher, Alison Carey (daughter Madison is in Good News Bears), who taught us how to ice our cupcakes and how to make marshmallow fondant. Another big thank you to the Durante Family (Dominic is in Good News Bears and Joseph is in Busy Bees), who donated all the baking items to make the fondant. What a great baking class right here at Good Shepherd! We are all so blessed.



Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

We collected over 50 Christmas shoe boxes—all donated by school staff and school parents—and dedicated them at our children's chapel service on 11/16 before sending them on their way! Children around the world who are not as fortunate as we will be receiving these gifts. Imagine the smiles on the boys and girls' faces when they open these most generous presents! Thank you to all who participated in this wonderful program. Your heart is fulfilled.



Eric Olaf Olsen with Yves Dushime

November 16 at 11:23am · Plainview, NY · 🌐

This morning's chapel service- dedicating our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes!



👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

Nicholas Sollom, Kathy Ocker, Vanessa Bigam and 28 others like this.




Yves Dushime This is sooo awesome Pastor Olsen!!! Thank you for being partners with this fantastic ministry and reaching children and their families all over the world! Please express gratitude to your congregation on my behalf! 😊

Unlike · Reply · 📌 · November 16 at 10:31am

Please Remember . . .

- ♥ Please bring us your gently used or new coats, hats, scarfs and gloves during the month of December for donation to those in need through the New Life Center.
- ♥ Our December chapel collections will support OUR KIDS Scholarship fund
- ♥ We are collecting cartridges again! Staples Rewards gives us \$2 for every one recycled cartridge. This money helps Good Shepherd pay for church and school office supplies. Please help us, bring in your recycled cartridges! Collection boxes are located in the church and the school hallway.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>  <p>This calendar is as of 12/2/15. Please check our website regularly for updates.</p> </div>						
<p>8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (spoken)</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Pastor Marc's Installation at Our Savior</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Children's Chapel</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer & Meditation</p> <p>10:30 a.m. <i>Lectio Divina</i> Bible Study</p> <p>12:30 p.m. English Conversation Group</p> <p>Christmas Lunch Gathering</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Seniors' Christmas Luncheon at Ann Ocker's House</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Children's Chapel</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Pastors' Pericope</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Bereavement Group</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Grades 2 - 12 Basketball</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Women's Basketball</p> <p>8:45 p.m. Men's Basketball</p>	<p>3:00 p.m. Soccer Shots</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Confirmation Class</p> <p>Senior Shepherds</p> <p>Advent Pot Luck Supper</p> <p>6:15 p.m. Bell Choir Practice</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Advent Vespers</p> <p>8:30 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p>7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Prayer Group followed by Pizza at Shepherd Hill</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Christian Support Group</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Magician's "Yours & Ours"</p> <p>Christmas Gathering</p> <p>8:00 p.m. Preacher's Pub</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. WELCA Bible Study</p> <p>Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>Second "Sunday" of Advent</p> <p>5:30 p.m. <i>Sunday Night Alive</i></p> <p>Contemporary Worship with Holy Eucharist in the church.</p>
<p>8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (spoken)</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Children's Chapel</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer & Meditation</p> <p>10:30 a.m. <i>Lectio Divina</i> Bible Study</p> <p>2:00 p.m. English Conversation & Introduction to Christianity</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Ministry Teams</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Children's Chapel</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Pastors' Pericope</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Bereavement Group</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Grades 2 - 12 Basketball</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Council Meeting</p> <p>8:45 p.m. Women's Basketball</p> <p>Men's Basketball</p>	<p>3:00 p.m. Teachers' Meeting</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Senior Shepherds</p> <p>Confirmation Class</p> <p>Advent Pot Luck Supper</p> <p>6:15 p.m. Bell Choir Practice</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Advent Vespers in Gym</p> <p>8:30 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p>6:00 p.m. Executive Committee</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Christian Support Group</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Boy Scouts Troop #423</p> <p>8:00 p.m. Preacher's Pub at the Inn Between in Syosset</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Library</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Prinz Studio</p> <p>Rehearsal in Church</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Cookie Exchange</p> <p>Fundraiser in Gym</p>	<p>Third "Sunday" of Advent</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist</p> <p>6:45 p.m. Greening of the Church</p>
<p>8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (spoken)</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Children's Chapel</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer & Meditation</p> <p>10:30 a.m. <i>Lectio Divina</i> Bible Study</p> <p>2:00 p.m. English Conversation & Introduction to Christianity</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Ministry Teams</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Children's Chapel</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Pastors' Pericope</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Bereavement Group</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Grades 2 - 12 Basketball</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Council Meeting</p> <p>8:45 p.m. Women's Basketball</p> <p>Men's Basketball</p>	<p>3:00 p.m. Teachers' Meeting</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Senior Shepherds</p> <p>Confirmation Class</p> <p>Advent Pot Luck Supper</p> <p>6:15 p.m. Bell Choir Practice</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Advent Vespers in Gym</p> <p>8:30 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p>6:00 p.m. Executive Committee</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Christian Support Group</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Boy Scouts Troop #423</p> <p>8:00 p.m. Preacher's Pub at the Inn Between in Syosset</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Library</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Prinz Studio</p> <p>Rehearsal in Church</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Cookie Exchange</p> <p>Fundraiser in Gym</p>	<p>Fourth "Sunday" of Advent</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist</p>
<p>8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (spoken)</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Children's Chapel</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer & Meditation</p> <p>10:30 a.m. <i>Lectio Divina</i> Bible Study</p> <p>2:00 p.m. English Conversation & Introduction to Christianity</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Ministry Teams</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Children's Chapel</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Pastors' Pericope</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Bereavement Group</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Grades 2 - 12 Basketball</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Council Meeting</p> <p>8:45 p.m. Women's Basketball</p> <p>Men's Basketball</p>	<p>3:00 p.m. Teachers' Meeting</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Senior Shepherds</p> <p>Confirmation Class</p> <p>Advent Pot Luck Supper</p> <p>6:15 p.m. Bell Choir Practice</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Advent Vespers in Gym</p> <p>8:30 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p>6:00 p.m. Executive Committee</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Christian Support Group</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Boy Scouts Troop #423</p> <p>8:00 p.m. Preacher's Pub at the Inn Between in Syosset</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Library</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Prinz Studio</p> <p>Rehearsal in Church</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Cookie Exchange</p> <p>Fundraiser in Gym</p>	<p>First "Sunday" of Christmas</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist</p>
<p>8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (spoken)</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Children's Chapel</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer & Meditation</p> <p>10:30 a.m. <i>Lectio Divina</i> Bible Study</p> <p>2:00 p.m. English Conversation & Introduction to Christianity</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Ministry Teams</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Children's Chapel</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Pastors' Pericope</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Bereavement Group</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Grades 2 - 12 Basketball</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Council Meeting</p> <p>8:45 p.m. Women's Basketball</p> <p>Men's Basketball</p>	<p>3:00 p.m. Teachers' Meeting</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Senior Shepherds</p> <p>Confirmation Class</p> <p>Advent Pot Luck Supper</p> <p>6:15 p.m. Bell Choir Practice</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Advent Vespers in Gym</p> <p>8:30 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p>6:00 p.m. Executive Committee</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Christian Support Group</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Boy Scouts Troop #423</p> <p>8:00 p.m. Preacher's Pub at the Inn Between in Syosset</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Library</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Prinz Studio</p> <p>Rehearsal in Church</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Cookie Exchange</p> <p>Fundraiser in Gym</p>	<p>Bring on the NEW YEAR!</p>

Join us at Good Shepherd for a women's holiday

Cookie exchange

-
- Please bring 100 homemade cookies and leave with at least 80 cookies in different varieties for your holiday parties!
- Please bring a copy of your recipe
- Boxes will be provided to take cookies home in
- AWESOME prizes for best tasting, prettiest and most festive cookies
- Snacks and drinks will be provided in the gym
- Please RSVP by 12/7

**Fundraiser
For Playground**

December 11th

7:00 pm

\$15



**Prizes – Fitbit Watch
Brand New King Size Mattress
Spa Day**

Name - _____ # attending - _____

Amount paid - _____ Tpe of cookie - _____



Nicholas Augeri - 12/8

Stanley Bartkow - 12/30

Carol Berardino - 12/25

Vanessa Bigam - 12/31

Barry Broggy - 12/4

Anthony Canino - 12/10

James Caporuscio - 12/9

Alexander Carrieri - 12/1

Gisela Conforti - 12/1

Miles Conforti - 12/13

Nick DeFilippis - 12/31

Alexandra Dumont - 12/20

Jeff Eisele - 12/11

Juliette Hough - 12/11

Yuna Ito - 12/2

Angelica Lindner - 12/5

Angela LaBarbera - 12/1

Diane Maisch - 12/17

Jack Maron - 12/5



Liliana Maron - 12/29

Michael Melengic - 12/14

Jackson Mulada - 12/23

Ava Park - 12/28

Dillon Pech - 12/14

Martha Peterson - 12/4

Michaela Pietrofere - 12/3

Isabelle Raba - 12/9

Hayley Soe - 12/8

Frank Sonnenberg - 12/7

Deborah Steinhilber - 12/2

Edward Strauhs - 12/20

Derrick Tatrault - 12/24

Ryan Tatrault - 12/24

Thomas Tynes - 12/8

Christin Walsh - 12/26

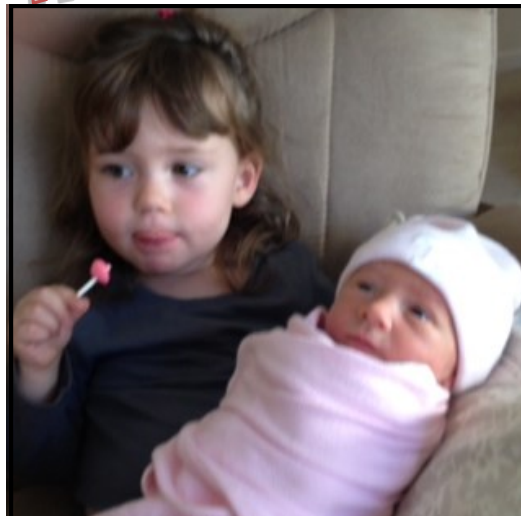
Margot White - 12/17

Mary Wiegert - 12/28

Welcome to the World!



CHRISTA & STEPHEN CONTOS
TWO YEARS ON 12/23



Annelouise Joy Rickmeyer was born on October 28th, weighing in at 5 lbs. 9 oz., and 19" long.

Congratulations, parents Paul & Melissa, grandparents, Anne & Bob, and, of course, big sister Lydia!

A Special Thank You

To those who sponsored tonight's event through donations, dedications or advertisements in this song book:

DeRiggi Family Chiropractic
 Flashing Shavings Bank
 La Firenze Restaurant
 Long Island Lutheran Middle & High School
 Mipat Construction
 New Hyde Park Funeral Home
 Pioneer Building Materials
 Pines Music Studio
 The Inn Between
 Vacarr Plumbing & Heating
 Vernon C. Wagner Funeral Home
 Thrivent Financial
 Tropical Storm Irrigation

And ...

To our elected officials for joining us,
 To Santa Claus for stopping by,
 To the moms & dads who coordinated our refreshments this night,

And ...TO YOU!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Please join us for coffee, juice, hotdogs and snacks in the WARM gym!

Please "like" our two Facebook Pages:
 Good Shepherd Plainview
 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church & School



MANY THANKS TO THE MEMBERS OF POBJFKHS'S MIXED CHOIR WHO SHARED THEIR TALENTS AT OUR TREE LIGHTING!





**OUR PRE-
THANKSGIVING
THANKSGIVING
FEASTS!**





*The
Prinz Music Studio
Presents*



A Christmas Concert

Benefiting
Youth & Family Counseling Agency (Oyster Bay, NY)
and
New Life Center Christmas Giving Program (Uniondale, NY)
to support local Long Island community families in need

Date: *Sunday, December 13, 2015*

Time: *4:00 p.m.*

Location: *Good Shepherd Lutheran Church & School*
99 Central Park Road, Plainview, NY 11803

Admission: *Canned food donations or*
New unwrapped toy donations

Featuring:

♪ Flute Magic! Flute Ensemble ♪

♪ Long Island Zither Ensemble ♪

♪ Oyster Bay Flute Choir ♪

♪ Christmas Carol Sing-a-long ♪



Refreshments following the concert



For more information, contact:

Prinz Music Studio

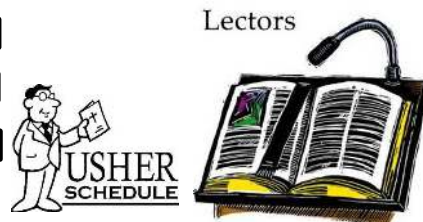
123 South Street, Suite 106, Oyster Bay, NY 11771

516.522.1230 or kathryn@prinzmusicstudio.com



SERVICE SCHEDULE

ALTAR CARE: DIANE MAISCH & ELEANOR PEARSON



DATE	SERVICE	ASSISTING MINIS-	LECTOR	USHERS
December 6 Second Sunday of Advent	8:00 a.m.	Ronn Hall	Richard Benson	The Tollefsen Family & The Uzzo Family
	10:15 a.m.	John Schwaninger Christin Walsh		
December 13 Third Sunday of Advent	8:00 a.m.	Karin Kienle	Cathy Vollono	Karl & Carol Burfeindt Ron Maisch John Schwaninger
	10:15 a.m.	Lori Mason Marge Wenger		
December 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent	8:00 a.m.	Dell-Ann Benson	Marge Wenger	The Broggy Family
	10:15 a.m.	Terry Miccio Anne Rickmeyer		
December 24 Christmas Eve	5:30 p.m.	Cathy Griffin Kathy Ocker	George Milhim	We need you at either service. If you can help, please call Marge Wenger as soon as possible. Thank you.
	11:00 p.m.	Bonnie McGowan Ronn Hall	Helen Kwong-LaBarbera	
December 25 Nativity of Our Lord	10:15 a.m.	Marge Wenger VOLUNTEER NEEDED	Ellen Sangesland	If you can help, please call Marge Wenger as soon as possible. Thank you
December 27 First Sunday of Christmas	8:00 a.m.	Tom Benson	Richard Benson	Gisela Conforti Pat Fiedler Donna Hickey Alice Vorstadt
	10:15 a.m.	Christin Walsh Kathy Ocker		

DECORATE the Church HANGING OF THE GREENS-12/21

Please stay or stop by next on Saturday, December 12th at 6:45 p.m. after worship to help decorate the church. There are many tasks to be completed to transform our worship space from the Advent season to the festive beauty of Christmas: assembling & hanging wreaths and bows; placing window candelabras and aisle candle holders; decorating the tree; roping evergreens & hanging ornaments in the narthex; and hanging Crismons (Christ Monograms) in the rear windows. Many hands make light work, so please lend yours. Let's make this a festive time! Please bring an appetizer or a finger food and beverages to share. Thank you!



HERE WE COME A CAROLING...

Please come along with us on Sunday, December 22, At 2:00 p.m.
If you know of anyone who is home bound that might be cheered up by a caroling visit, please contact the church office at 516-349-1966 or church@our shepherdlives.org! Come one and all to sing along with us! Please meet at the church & we will be on our merry way! All are welcome.





Pastor Nick's Installation



Advent Wreath Making



Dear People of Good Shepherd,

I am still completely overwhelmed with joy and gratitude that you have called me to be your assistant pastor. My installation service on Reformation Day was a beautiful, visible sign of God's love for us as we begin a new relationship together. Having all of you present to pray with me, pray for me, support me, encourage me, and love me was incredibly special! Thank you for your presence, love, and support!

I wish to thank a few people by name for their efforts in making my installation a very special experience: Maureen Cooke, who created a beautiful invitation and service bulletin; Teresa Ratkowski, who facilitated an evening of beautiful music; Caryn Yakacki, Dan Keller, Barry Schwalb, Lois Fassino, and the entire church choir for their incredible music making; Marge Wenger and Cathy Griffin for assisting; Tom and Dell-Ann Benson for reading; Lori DeFilippis and Bonnie and John McGowan for ushering; Ellen Sangesland for representing the congregation; Pastor Derr for preaching, Pastor Nale for installing, and Pastor Olsen for presiding.

I also wish to thank all of you who represented the entire congregation as I was installed: Paul Wenger, Sue Devine, Lois Fassino, Caryn Yakacki, Loretta Ruff, Terry Miccio, Jim Blewett, Ken McBride, Karen McQueen-McBride, Alicia Carlson, Noori Jerrard, Lori DeFilippis, JoAnn Schulz-Dellacona, Marge Wenger, and Bonnie McGowan.

And finally, a huge word of thanks to Roy and Debbie Steinhilber who prepared an absolutely incredible meal for all of us to enjoy! The time, thoughtfulness, effort, and care put into this meal was and is very moving for me. And to Eric and Lisa Olsen who know how much I love cake and provided a beautiful cake! And to all of you who brought such wonderful desserts to share!

I am sure there are more people to thank--those who gave of themselves in unseen ways, those who couldn't make it but sent prayers and good wishes, those who were there in spirit, those who helped last minute. My deepest thanks and love to each and every one of you! As we embark on this great journey together--of 'Loving, Living, and Sharing Christ'--full of gratitude and excited for what is still to come, let us remember the words of Pastor Derr, 'For God is in the business of freedom. God's Son has set us free and here in Christ's household we are free and faith-filled and fearless indeed.'

Peace and Joy,
Nicholas J. Olsen
Pastor Nick

More Words of Thanks

Dear Mr. Gruenke & Rev. Olsen,

Thank you so much for the generous donation to PBJ. Usually we are able to make 500 sandwiches for about \$150.-. So your check for \$375.00 will feed many people. The best part of your gift is knowing that children in your school were learning about and praying about food scarcity in our community. Thank you also for your warm -

welcome as I'm new here and still getting to know the church & our neighbors. Please pass on our gratitude to the children. Tell them that when people come to the INN they get a hot meal, free books & clothes, a warm welcome, a safe comfortable place to be AND a sandwich to take with them for later. Blessings on all of the good ministry you do and blessings on our future work together.

Warmly, Cheri Kroon

Did You Know We Have a Prayer Shawl Ministry?

What is the Prayer Shawl Ministry?

Hand knit or crocheted prayer shawls are given to those in need of healing or comfort. A prayer shawl can also be given to honor a joyous occasion for the recipient. Prayer shawls are made with love and prayer, with the hope the shawls will bring the blessings of peace and comfort to each recipient.



Who makes the prayer shawls?

Prayer shawls are knit and crocheted by Good Shepherd's "Nifty Nitters," who work together at the church and individually at home.

How can I participate?

The "Nifty Nitters" will resume meeting every Wednesday after the new year between 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, in the West Cottage. Be sure to look for announcements toward the end of the month. All are welcome to join in this ministry! Shawls can also be made at home.

Can I learn how to knit or crochet?

Absolutely! Beginners will receive knitting and crochet instructions. Come with willing hands and hearts, and several members are available to help get you started.

How can I give a prayer shawl to someone?

If you know of someone who could benefit from receiving a prayer shawl, please contact the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church office at 516/349-1966 to make the necessary arrangements.

How can I support this ministry?

We welcome: prayers for the ministry, for those making the shawls, and the shawl recipients. Yarn and monetary donations toward materials are also gratefully accepted.

*Prayer Shawls are a reminder we are
wrapped in God's love and supported by prayer.*

- Submitted by Kathy Prinz

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Well, this year's Commitment Sunday has passed. During the past year we were asked to "Walk With Jesus" and see where His ministry would take us. How did your walk go? Did you talk with Jesus as you walked? Did you listen to what he had to say? Or were you just day-dreaming along the way? Spending quality time with a friend, any friend, is very important. It is time not to be wasted. You may seek their advice on a personal matter or they may ask you if you are able to help them with something they need to get done.

Here at Good Shepherd we have many opportunities to have conversations with Jesus beside during our Sunday worship time. We have a *Taize* meditative service, Sunday Night Alive contemporary praise, the *Sharing the Faith* adult class on Sunday mornings, *Lectio Divina* bible study, the Preacher's Pub, our Men's Prayer Breakfast of Champions for Christ, bereavement and support groups as well as midweek services after a meal together during Advent and Lent. All afford us many opportunities to talk with and listen to what Jesus has to say.

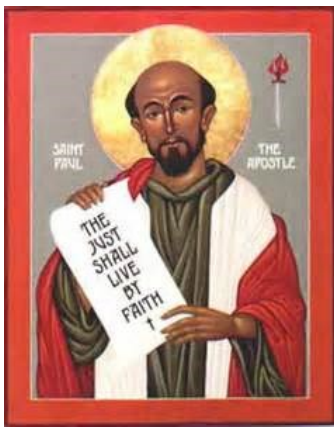
Oh, and what ministry needs did Jesus point out to you along your walk? Did He mention the sick and lonely in nursing facilities or visiting forgotten members that can no longer get to church on a Sunday morning? Did He ask if you could sing or spend time on a ministry team, gathering donated food items for a pantry, or teaching our children about Him?

During the coming year our stewardship theme is the "The Widow's Mite," a story where Jesus points out to His disciples that by placing her trust in God a poor widow was able to give all she had to God. Are you trusting in God to enough to let your stewardship grow? Are you trusting enough to change priorities of your time and the use of you talents to grow your faith and commitment to Christ?

As we now journey through Advent and then on to celebrate the Birth of our Savior what gift will you bring to the manger? What time can you bring? What talent can you bring? What treasure can you bring?

- Submitted by Bob Rickmeyer





THE LIVES OF GREAT CHRISTIANS

Join us every Sunday in the West cottage for our course on "The Lives of Great Christians". Each Sunday we will view a 30 minute video and focus on great practitioners of the Christian Life. We will travel across the centuries from Paul and the First Christian Missionaries to Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Martin Luther King.

Professor William R. Cook, Ph.D., distinguished teaching professor of history, State University of New York at Geneseo, will guide us through this educational series.



So please join us for this ongoing series, every Sunday, 9AM, in the West Cottage.

SPECIAL DECEMBER EVENTS & WORSHIP

ADVENT POT LUCK SUPPERS
WEDNESDAYS @ 6:00 P.M.
12/2, 12/9, 12/16 & 12/23

MIDWEEK PRAYER SERVICES
WEDNESDAYS @ 7:30 P.M.
12/2, 12/9, 12/16 & 12/23

COOKIE SWAP FUNDRAISER
FRIDAY, 12/11 AT 7:00 P.M.

GREENING OF THE CHURCH
SATURDAY, 12/12 @ 6:45 P.M.

PRINZ MUSIC STUDIO CONCERT
SUNDAY, 12/13 @ 4:00 P.M.

CANTOR CARYN'S STUDENTS' CONCERT
FRIDAY, 12/18 @ 7:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING
SUNDAY, 12/20 @ 2 P.M.

TAIZE SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION
SUNDAY, 12/20 @ 7:00 P.M.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES
THURSDAY, 12/24 @ 5:30 P.M. & 11:00 P.M.

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP SERVICE
FRIDAY, 12/25 @ 10:00 A.M.

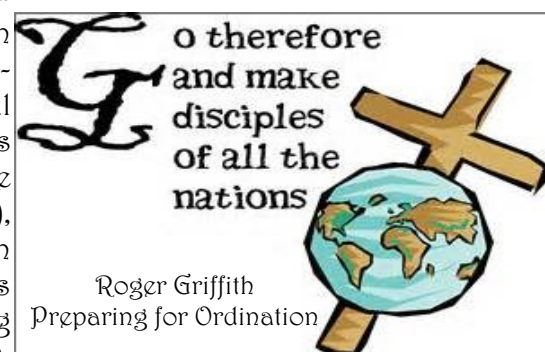


In Our Thoughts and Prayers



Alan (Ludewig family friend), Doreen Alexander (Karen Faucera's friend), Maurgen Kelly Araujo, Charlie Aviano (Garcia family friend), Harry & John Baierlein, Deb Steinhilber's uncle, Jean Baker (Gail Kelly's mom), Alex & Derek Bartkow, Marilyn Benner, Martha Bernardino, Katharina & George Burger (Kathy Schindelhheim's relatives), Baby William Nicholas Bidell (Pastor Olsen's friend), Eleanor Bierlmaier Dugan, John Binsfeld (Benner family friend), Edwina Bishop, Janet Brazel (Terry Miecio's relative), Brad Carbone & family (R. Benson family friend), Lynn Carlson (Irma's daughter-in-law), Jennifer Carrieri, Kenneth Cline, Gisela Conforti, Stephen Contos, Baby Maya Contreras & family (Alice Vorstadt's relatives), Chris Cucci, Claudia DeMauro, Rich Doughty (Krista Contos's friend); Susan Dowd

(Maisch family friend), Anna Duda (Denise Bartkow's mother), baby Searlett Duffy (Hickey/ McGowan family friend), Steven Dux (Irma Carlson's friend), Becky Ernst (Paul Wenger's cousin), Mary Faccio (Helmers family friend), Suzanne Falkowitz (Annmarie Brown's friend), Pat Fiedler, Irene & James Fields (Vincent Cronin's sister & nephew), Agatha Filagrossi, Jackie Gentner, Anne Georgi (Karen Faucera's friend), Lilah & Jim Gillett (Kathy Prinz's friends), Tim Goodell, Jamie Goldberg (Deb Steinhilber's granddaughter), Jessica Gruenfelder (Lori Mason's colleague), Tom Gucciardo (Olsen family friend), Kenneth Hall (Ronn's brother), Naomi Haarhaus, Diane Helmers, Renee Iannone (Irma Carlson's niece), Gary Jacobs (Anne Riekmeyer's relative), Bill Johnson (Kitty Hall's relative), George Kidgeris, Chris Kim (Yuna Jin's friend), Amanda Kuek, Audrey Lassus, Lois Lengenfelder, Dr. Lorna Lewis, Kenneth Lang, Martha Langjahr, Jean Lombardo (Riekmeyer family friend), Angel & Christopher Lorch, Kim Maca (Kathy Prinz's friend), Tim Marion (Alice Vorstadt's friend), Vanessa Masih (Lisa Cacchioli's student's sister), Virginia Marshall (Sue Devine's friend), Jim Mason, Diane Matales (Lilli Schulz's friend), Kathy Matullo, Joan Mautz, Patty McMasney (Maurgen Cooke's cousin), Patti McSkane (Kathy Prinz's friend), Annette Meitzner (Roy Steinhilber's friend), Teddy Moore (Miecio family friend); Kristen Odmak & her family (R. Benson family friend), Doris Onderdonk (Mason family friend), Meghan Ortega (Lisa Olsen's niece), Eric Page (Karen Faucera's friend) Tom Player (Cathy Vollono's cousin), Bob Podewils (Boy Scout leader), Mark Prowatzke (Danny Wenger's father in law), Carol & Jack Ritter (Alice Vorstadt's friends), Nicole Richards (Karen Faucera's friend), William Roach (Pat Fiedler's brother), Justin Rogers (Karin Kienle's nephew), Glenn Schabel, Lisa Shaffer (Kathy Prinz's friend), Ken Sharvin (Pastor Olsen's friend), Diane Sicea (Debbie Garcia's sister), Ed Siering (Marge Wenger), Lois Sommermeyer (Paul Wenger's sister), Ian Spadaro, Judy Stal (Christine Adolphus's daughter), Don Stevens (Patty Larson's friend), Ruth & Charlie Strakelz, Carter Suozzi, (Kevin Oeker's colleague's grandson), Joyce Tarz, Debbie Tassi (Denise Donitz's sister), Joan Testa (John Hulver's relative), Brittany & Sue Thomas, Tracy (Angel Lorch's cousin), Sheryl Tubiolo (Karen Faucera's friend), Barbara Tung (Karen Faucera's friend), Sarah Waters (Lisa Olsen's colleague), Clifton Weed (Fiedler family friend), Marilyn Weyant (Maisch family friend), Joan Wittwer, Valgrie Wykes (Mason relative) and Brother George Zenle (Wenger family friend).



To the family and friends of Lois Fassino's mother, Thelma Wuerfel.

Keith & Kyle Calderone (Army), Sgt. Sean Hassett (Lori Mason's cousin), CPT. Paul Riekmeyer, Captain Robert Saugracker, LTC. Phillip Sounia, USMC, Corporal Nicholas Ventrelli-O'Connell (Patty Larson's family friend).



At our 10:15 a.m. worship service on Sunday, November 22, we received 21 new members into our Good Shepherd family through Affirmation of Baptism—Vanessa Bigam and her daughter Sophia, Mary Jo & Scott Blackmon, Alex Carrion and his girlfriend Alexa Morales, Dee Ann & Joseph Grappone, Maureen & Jim Holohan, Robert & Hildy Johnson and their daughter Jennifer Seiderman and her family, husband James and sons Luke and Ryan, Joan Maute, Marie-Line & Edward Strauhs, and Dorothy & Joseph Rooney. We are blessed to be entering the joyous season of Advent together with them as part of our congregation.



Most of us already know or have seen Vanessa Bigam in our school office, where she has worked since the end of the summer. Pastor Olsen married her and her husband Sean in August and baptized their son William on Rally Day. Vanessa and daughter Sophia now join William as members of our congregation. Shawn and she met at the Mid-Island Y in 2009 while she was working there as the Children's Program Coordinator and Shawn was the First Aid/CPR Instructor. They hit it off right away and been together ever since. A few years later they bought a house, got engaged, married, and have two beautiful children. *"This is not your typical order of doing things but in my storybook it all works out beautifully,"* says Vanessa. Shawn now works as a Firefighter in the Town Of Mamaranock. He has been involved in EMS work and a career Firefighter for over ten years..

"I recently joined the Good Shepherd Team, as the Administrative Assistant in the Nursery School. I have been working with children and involved in Child Care for over ten years. Ever since I was a little girl, I had a passion to nurture and educate young children. It has been a pleasure working here at Good Shepherd, and becoming an official member makes it even better! It is a pleasant feeling to bring back my inner faith and surround myself and family in a wonderful environment."

Scott and Mary Blackmon were just married on November 15, 2015, after being together for seven years. They met at a dance and have been together ever since. Mary is from Rochester, NY, and Scott is from Springfield, IL. Scott moved to New York in 2003 and got a job in the printing business but has since started a new job as a Maintenance Supervisor for Sacred Heart Church in Island Park. Mary has been working as a receptionist for Meltzer Lippe and Goldstein Law Firm for the past 22 years.



Mary has a beautiful daughter, Carrie, who is a third grade teacher, and a son-in-law, John, who is in the Emergency Service Unit of the NYPD. John and Carrie welcomed their "miracle baby," Sofia into the world last September. "She is the gift and the light of their lives."

Mary and Scott met Pastor Olsen at the wedding of their friends (and our congregants), Michael Steinert and Nicole Soricelli, and asked him to officiate their wedding. Pastor Olsen reached out to Scott during an illness in August, and since then, the couple has been to Good Shepherd regularly to worship. They are so glad to continue their relationship with the church, God, and Pastor Olsen.



PLEASE VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGES FOR MORE PICTURES AND ONGOING IN THE MOMENT NEWS ABOUT OUR SCHOOL AND CHURCH PROGRAMS!
GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL
GOOD SHEPHERD PLAINVIEW



Alexander Carrion is a recent graduate of Hofstra University School of Law who has lived most of his life in New York. Born and raised a Roman Catholic, Alex went to Catholic elementary and high school, and even attended the Catholic University of America for college, but he “never felt the sense of community promised in Catholic teachings and as a result went to church less and less over time.”

His girlfriend, Alexa (Morales) told him about our church, and he “immediately found that it was a much tighter and friendlier community. Small things like the sign of peace before communion are given with a sense of closeness, and they make all the difference in attending mass.” Alex decided to join our community because of Pastor Olsen. “His passion for his work during mass is truly unique, and he is talented at bringing together attendees of all ages. With him I have felt for the first time a sense of what a mass should be like, and I am excited to learn more and develop my spirituality here.”



Dee Ann & Joe Grappone have been married for 33 years and have lived in Bethpage for 30 of them. They have been blessed with two sons. Kyle and Eric. Kyle, the older son, is a senior marketing associate in Manhattan. He is engaged to a lovely young lady named Kayla and is planning a June 2017 wedding. Their younger son, Eric, “lives in heaven with Jesus.” Joe works for the American Red Cross and Dee Ann works with special needs children at Nassau BOCES. She also works for Millneck services for deaf adults. The Grappones feel blessed that the Lord brought them to Good Shepherd.

Joan Maute was born and raised in Brooklyn. Currently a resident in Shepherd Hills, she is the mother of two children, Kimberly and Matthew, and has a beautiful granddaughter, Nicole. She has been a follower of the Lutheran faith for over 50 years and is familiar with many members of our congregation through our Shepherd’s Table outreach with the Shepherd Hill community. When she was ill, Pastor Olsen often visited her and has been a great comfort to her. Although Joan is not able to attend worship services on a regular basis due to her health, she is looking forward to becoming a member of our church because she “feels at home” here and feels very much a part of our faith community.



Alexa Morales has lived in Syosset for most of her life and began to explore her religion in second grade at Faith Lutheran church. There she served as an acolyte, lector, and assisting minister. A senior at Hofstra University, Alexa is an avid runner who also loves reading and learning. She hopes to continue her studies in law out of state. While Faith was going through a number of changes, Alexa began to feel that she needed somewhere else to grow socially and spiritually. After a year of attending worship here at Good Shepherd, she is happy to have found her home! “I am ecstatic to fully be integrated to this community and grow as a person!”



Dorothy and Joe Rooney met as teenagers in the Queens District of the Long Island District Luther League and Pinecrest Lutheran Summer Camp. Dorothy was from Holy Trinity in Bellerose, and Joe from Good Shepherd in Queens Village. They have also been active members of Lutheran churches in Syosset and East Meadow. The couple was married on April 17, 1954 in Holy Trinity and have been blessed with four children and six grandchildren. The Rooneys are happy to have found Pastor Olsen and Good Shepherd, thanks to Lilli Schulz. They wish all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Edward Strauhs graduated from our school in 1969. He and Marie-Line were married by Pastor Olsen here at Good Shepherd on June 5th. The newlyweds make their home in Levittown and are happy to being their married life as part of our Good Shepherd family.

LuHi MEAL PACKING EVENT 2016

*Your hands feeding hungry children
around the world and around the corner*



EVENT'S GOAL: Pack 300,000 food packets in order to feed 500 children every day for one year. The food packets consist of rice, soy, dried vegetables and seasoning mix. These meals are nutritionally balanced to prevent malnutrition. You, along with hundreds of other volunteers, will pack the meals that will benefit people both locally and abroad.

THE EVENT: This is the sixth year Long Island Lutheran High School is organizing/hosting this event on their Brookville, NY campus. It is open to all churches, religious denominations, youth groups, community organizations, schools, and businesses, scouting or other groups, family or persons who want to participate. All ages are welcome, however, **children under the age of 10 need to be accompanied by a parent.**

The packing event will take place on Sunday, April 10 through Tuesday, April 12 in the Visscher Gymnasium at Long Island Lutheran High School. There will be day and evening packing sessions available each of the three scheduled days.

PARTICIPATION: The funds to purchase the food will come from donations like yours. Every \$60 donated entitles one person to take part in a 2-hour packing session. However, donations in any amount are gratefully accepted. Please note that a large percentage of the packaged food will be used to feed children locally and 100% of all donations are used to purchase meal supplies.

A few notes about donations:

- ☐ Making a donation does not obligate you to take part in the meal packing.
- ☐ Donations of all sizes are encouraged and appreciated.
- ☐ Donors can choose to have contributions of \$60 or more sponsor other persons who want to pack the food.
- ☐ Donations to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church must be received **by January 31, 2016** to ensure delivery of dried food in time for the packing event.

All participants and groups must pre-register. Please contact the church office at 516-349-1699 or church@ourshepherdlives.org by **Sunday, January 31, 2016** if you would like to participate. As always, Good Shepherd will be submitting a blanket registration on behalf of our group. Your donations should be payable to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, and we will forward only one check to Lutheran High School. Even if you may not personally be able to commit the time and energy to this very important project, you can still support it by sponsoring or contributing to help offset the donations of some who would like to participate, such as our confirmation students (who are required to attend as part of their studies), some full families, and some fiscally challenged congregation members. The \$60 registration is for one person only, so if a family of four is willing and able to participate, they would have to donate \$240 on their own! Your gift of \$60 would help offset their expense as it will register one person for a two-hour session and would greatly help everyone's ability to participate. Others may have the time, the heart, desire, and ability but need the cash to participate! Your gift in any amount will be greatly appreciated.

**PLEASE RESERVE YOUR PACKING SESSION
THROUGH GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**

This is going to be a **HUGE EVENT** but it can't happen without **PEOPLE LIKE YOU.**

GOOD SHEPHERD IS PROUD TO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THIS EVENT SINCE ITS INCEPTION!

**LAST YEAR, LUHI PACKED 320,328 MEALS
FOR LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES AND THE ANDREW GRENE SCHOOL IN HAITI!**

WITH OUR HELP ONCE AGAIN IN 2016 WE CAN ALL MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



UPDATE FOR DECEMBER 2015

WITH COUNSELING SITES LOCATED IN:
NASSAU SUFFOLK MANHATTAN QUEENS WESTCHESTER
Prepared especially for LCC Association Congregations & Schools

The Importance of "Screen" Fasting

By Susan Blayer, LCSW, MDiv., LCC therapist

Technology and social media have led to a new norm of 'selfies', soundbites, and speed. The days seem to fly by as we find ourselves more drawn in by our digital devices- checking our phones, our emails, our facebook pages- more often than we'd like. So how do we continue to raise moral, well-adjusted children in an increasingly distracted, reactive age?

The answer lies, at least in part, in a strong suggestion I find that both parents and children tend to resist: GET OFF THE SCREENS!!! The collective number of hours spent in a single household on computers, I pads, cell phones, televisions and video-games, is astounding. The problem isn't so much that these sources of information and entertainment are inherently harmful, but that they can lure us so easily into the false notion that these types of connections are just as valuable as those we have face-to-face. They are not.

As Proverbs 22:6 tells us, "Train up a child in the way (he) should go; even if (he) is old, (he) will not depart from it." It is our responsibility as Christian parents to be our children's "trainers", laying a solid foundation upon which they can develop and grow into well-adjusted adults. Now more than ever, children need to learn how to engage in real-life social situations. Dr. John Gottman's Emotional Coaching Principles and the Yale University for Emotional Intelligence provide much evidence indicating that human beings are not born knowing how to have effective interpersonal engagements. Rather, the adults who have great influence on their children's lives (parents, caretakers, teachers) must model and guide children in the identification and regulation of their emotions, in finding healthy ways to process disappointments, and to help them creatively navigate conflicts or resolve problems. Clearly, this becomes more challenging when there are so many avenues for escape and avoidance in lieu of actually processing uncomfortable situations and feelings. Yet, when employed with consistency, emotional coaching/intelligence techniques have been shown to significantly reduce aggression and other mood issues while increasing self-confidence and self-mastery in order to boost academic performance and greatly improve relationships.

The suggestion to "shut down, turn off and unplug," in essence, to "fast" from all screen time, is accompanied by a practical tool I have found to work wonders to decrease unwanted acting-out behaviors, particularly in younger children. I call it the "20 minute formula". I encourage parents to find 20 minutes a day, entirely uninterrupted, to focus only on their child and whatever that child chooses to do with them. This can also be combined with active, children-focused family time, scheduled at least a few times a week for at least an hour.

It is incredible how difficult many families have in implementing this "quality time" in spite of a genuine desire to be able to do so, and a general understanding that attention-seeking behaviors are best combated by giving positive attention. Yet once we can connect with our children on more of this heart-level, we can begin to have more of an impact on their social and moral development as well.

Susan Blayer, LCSW, MDiv, counsels children, teens, families and adults at LCC's sites at Advent, NYC; Woodside; and Mineola. She also facilitates mental health seminars in churches and schools. Call us at 1-800-317-1173 for more information or to set an appointment.