



CELEBRATING 65 YEARS IN GOD'S SERVICE

Word from Our Pastor



***With so much
injustice, hate, and
violence in the world
today how can we
individually and
collectively live a
life committed to
sharing God's true
love? What would a
world infused with
that love look like?
What would our
community, family
and friends look
like? What would we
look like?***

Dear Faithful People of Good Shepherd:

One bit of “fake news” that splashed briefly across the airwaves was that a bust of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr was removed from the Oval Office of the White House. The story was soon debunked and images of the bust in its proper place were again in the spotlight. King once said, “Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.” During these still dark days of February in a time when fake news abounds and fear and hate seem to be lurking in the shadows, we continue our starlight epiphany stroll together as God’s people.

In preparation for the celebration of the “Day of Love”, Saint Valentine’s Day, the children of our school have been singing a song called Love, Love, Love. The refrain goes like this:

*Love, love, love, that’s what its all about!
God loves us we love each other, mother, father, sister, brother.
Everybody sing and shout! That’s what it’s all about!*

St. Valentine cast out much darkness with the light of Christ and drove out hatred with love. It is that kind of Love that we need to sing and shout about! Here is a picture of that love...

According to legend a priest named Valentine lived in Rome during the third century at the time of the reign of Emperor Claudius. Claudius had a passion for war. He became enraged because many men who had families were reluctant to join the army. In response the Emperor issued a decree declaring a ban on all marriage ceremonies. Needless to say Pastor Valentine disobeyed Claudius’ decree and continued to marry couples in secret until he was caught, arrested, and condemned to death.

During his imprisonment many young people came to visit Valentine, bringing him flowers and notes to make him feel loved. It is believed that the daughter of a prison guard risked her own life to visit with him often during those last days even though she violated the law to do so. Her love and devotion inspired and comforted Valentine.

On February 14, 270 AD, Valentine left a note to the jailer’s daughter thanking her for the bold and selfless love that she shared with him during his last days. He signed the note, “Love from your Valentine.” He was then executed by being beaten to death and beheaded according to the sentence he had received earlier because of his steadfast belief that nothing should be allowed to stand in the way of true love.

How bold are we in our loving and in defending the right to love others? Can we, reflect God’s love as perfectly as the legendary Saint Valentine? With so much injustice, hate and violence in the world today how can we individually and collectively live a life committed to sharing God’s true love? What would a world infused with that love look like? What would our community, family and friends look

like? What would we look like? We may wish to ask ourselves these questions as we journey towards Lent (which begins on Ash Wednesday, March 1st) and the cross of Christ, the ultimate symbol of bold and selfless love.

Come to Good Shepherd every Sunday morning or evening for worship this Epiphany and fill up on God's brilliant love. Be caring enough to ask a friend or family member to join you in worship. God can transform the world and we can help- one heart at a time!

May God grant each of us the desire and power to stand for and share the truest love which is Jesus the Christ!

Agape,



Pastor Eric Olaf Olsen

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



One of the disadvantages of being president of council is writing an article each month, and this month it has been an ordeal. The article is overdue, and I am still clueless about what to write. It could be because of the January Blues.

So, January Blues, what is there to say? I read recently a Facebook post about "Blue Monday" which is reported to be the third Monday in January. Now some of you are old enough to remember Fats Domino singing the song, "Blue Monday, how I hate blue Monday," (1956), but he was just talking about going to work on Monday to earn his pay after playing his music all weekend. The Blue Monday I am referring to was January 15 this year. Blue Monday is supposedly the most depressing day of the year, and January the most depressing month.

Many of us suffer the blues in winter, even seasonal affect disorder due to decreased daylight, and it isn't just in January. Curiously, people suffer less when there is snow on the ground. So, if you are feeling blue, you could pray for SNOW! Or you could push yourself to get out, get some exercise, or get involved in something.

One of the advantages to serving as president of council is I have become more acutely aware of all the volunteers needed to accomplish the work around the church; and, truthfully, there are often not enough hands. AH HA! The plot thickens and the article is evolving.

You see a lot of blurbs in the bulletin about becoming an usher, a lector, an assisting minister, or a choir member. We need people to do this, but frankly some people shy away from being front and center. No movie or play is produced without the lighting people, the set and costume design, the people behind the scenes. Perhaps solving winter blues could be curtailed by volunteering behind the scenes.

Consider joining Diane Maisch on altar care team. Altar team members are assigned with another person for a given month, and the time could be split between the two (two Sundays on and two off). They are responsible for setting up the Eucharist and putting the vessels away. This takes less than an hour a Sunday, and if even if you serve all the Sundays of a given month, it will take less than four hours of your time in a year.

We also have need for people to work on the Flower Ministry Team headed by Anne Rickmeyer. Flower team members can sign up for a given Sunday and arrange the flowers on Friday or Saturday for a maximum of two hours, and you get to pick which Sundays. Some of you have this natural talent, and if not you can be taught.

How about volunteering for specific needs of Property and Grounds: painting, repair or electrical work? Give your name and skill to Phil Lorch or Kevin Ocker and be assigned to specific tasks.

If you like working with a group, come up and bake communion bread in the school kitchen for a couple of hours once every 6-8 weeks. For those of you who like *Sunday Night Alive* or *Taize*, people are needed for set-up. *Taize* set-up takes an hour after 10:15 a.m. liturgy on the third Sunday of the month and *Sunday Night Alive* an hour before the supper on the first Sunday. Speak to Marge Wenger (baking & Taize) or Anne Rickmeyer *Sunday Night Alive*).

Keep in mind, this will help with winter blues and the work around the church. And did you know there is a summer seasonal affect disorder? You'll be hearing from me!



A MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL DIRECTOR

A few year ago (as a little girl growing up in Tennessee) I learned this song in Sunday School. It may be a simple children's song, but like so many other things we teach our children, it carries an important message - it IS all about love. As I write this article, I am anticipating chapel tomorrow, where I know the children will be singing this song and as always, the message will be about love – the love of Jesus, love for one another, etc. Truly the rooms and halls of Good Shepherd Lutheran School resonate with love: I see loving parents dropping off their children everyday into the arms of loving staff members, and this is a wonderful sight to see! Presently, we are doing many school tours for new families and one of the things these families notice and always comment on is that we have such a loving, warm atmosphere here. If you ever need to come to a place to “feel the love,” I invite you to visit the school. If you know a little one whose parents are looking for a quality preschool – please direct them to Good Shepherd. After all, “It’s about love.”

*Love, love, love
That's what it's
all about.
'Cause God loves us
we love each other
Mother, Father,
Sister, Brother
Everybody sing
and shout!
'Cause that's what
it's all about.
It's about
love, love, love."*

Valentine's Day is coming, and all classes will be celebrating Valentine's Day in the classrooms by talking about love, making Valentine's items for families, and enjoying a special snack. Teachers will be sending home Valentine's Day lists and instructions for each class, so if you are a school parent, please look for communications from your child's teacher. Everyone is welcome to come and celebrate at our school Valentine's Day Dance held on Friday, February 10th at 6:00 PM. This dance is for both children and adults. There will be dinner and desserts served as well as a DJ; please come and celebrate Valentine's Day at the school; feel the love and dance the night away for only \$8.00 per person.

Tickets for the dance will be sold in both the school and church offices.

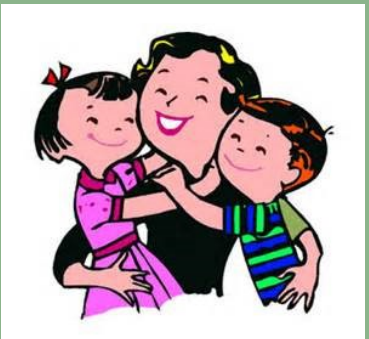
Speaking of love (and food), please fast forward to Thursday, March 2nd. On this date, the school will be collaborating with Genevieve's Helping Hands, Inc. to host a workshop called “Fresh Foods for Families.” There will be a cooking demonstration with a professional chef and participants will get to take home the gourmet dish that they prepared. This workshop is free and will be at 7:00 PM. Genevieve's helping Hands, Inc. provides small financial grants to young moms stricken with breast cancer to help them live their life to the fullest and enhance their recovery from any type of breast cancer treatment. The work that this organization does is certainly an expression of love. You can read more on their website at genshelpinghands.org.

Sharing our love of learning and reading is one of the most important gifts we can give. Reading books to children when they are very young helps them in lots of different ways. For infants just looking at pictures in books helps their eyes focus. Reading to babies also helps them develop language and listening skills. When you read to a toddler, you stimulate his/her imagination and builds awareness of people, things, and senses. Reading to children introduces them to the joy of learning and creates a loving bond between you and your child. During this month of love (and hopefully not too much snow!), please consider visiting our school for a tour, recommending our school to a neighbor or friend, and attending our Valentines' Day Dance and/or the Fresh Food demonstration. Most importantly, plan to share a book with a small child; you will be glad you did!

We ask that you continue to keep the staff and school families in your prayers.

Peace & Blessings,

Teresa Ratkowski
School Director



A WORD FROM OUR VICAR



As Pastor Olsen talked about in a recent sermon, right now is a contentious time—in this country, in the world, and even in our own congregation. We are more polarized than ever. And as Pastor pointed out, in times of great contention we have a tendency to withdraw from conversation with those who do not share our opinion. Instead, we retreat into the echo chamber of those who share our opinion. We become further entrenched, and we further demonize the “other side.” Now, in the very words “other side” we have a false presupposition; namely, that there are only two sides to an issue. Reality, I believe, is far more complicated than that. (As a member of the Libertarian Party I am quite used to being on neither side of the political spectrum or rather agreeing sometimes with one and sometimes with the other).

Usually there are several sides to an issue, several legitimate opinions on a matter. Sometimes there is only one ethical or rational position (for example, slavery is one such morally indefensible position). But when things get contentious, we have a tendency to polarize, gather our tribe, and condemn absolutely the other side. Instead of considering each issue and asking “what is ethical? what is rational? what do the facts say?” we ask, “what is my tribe's position? what is the liberal/conservative position on this issue?” Pastor Olsen challenged us all to do something difficult that Sunday, something brave. He challenged us to *talk* to one another. To hear one another's hopes and fears for our country going forward. He challenged us to really hear one another and to refrain from criticizing each other even if just for the space of a few minutes. He challenged us to set aside our need to “win” the argument, the urge to always be right, and to just hear the perspective of another. This is a very important thing to do, especially as it gets harder and harder to hear the perspective of your ideological “enemy” without hatred. If we intentionally create space where we can be honest with ourselves and with each other, I believe we will find that people are far more complex than simple categories like “liberal” or “conservative” are able to capture. We will find that we need each other's points of view to check our blind spots. We will find that when our ideological enemy has a human face and a story, it is much harder to dismiss them wholesale. As I overheard one person in the congregation say after the exercise “it is so much harder to hate up close.”

We the Church have to lead the nation in reclaiming civility in discourse. We will not always agree, but agreement is not the basis of our unity. Our common lot as sinners redeemed by the grace of God given in Jesus is. These conversations need to begin happening within the Church because if they can't happen successfully within Christ's own Body, where can they happen? We need to be willing to take risks, willing to be uncomfortable, willing to make mistakes. But above all we need to be willing to forgive. As Christ forgave us and welcomed us even when we were wholly *wrong* in our sin, we need to be willing to accept one another even when we sincerely believe the other is wrong. Brothers and sisters, we cannot do this by our own strength, but only by relying on the grace of *our common* Lord.

So let us face one another as we lean together on Jesus Christ, the Lord and Savior of us all.

PLEASE HOST A PAIR OF HOUGHTON COLLEGE CHOIR MEMBERS



Good Shepherd is thrilled by this unique opportunity to have The Houghton College Choir perform in our church, but we need your help to bring it to fruition. Please consider hosting two students in your home overnight on April 11. All they would need is a good night's sleep, a light (but early) breakfast on April 12, and a ride to and from the church. They will be eating a pre-concert dinner here at Good Shepherd on Tuesday, April 11, and will be leaving from the church early on the morning of Wednesday, April 12. Please contact the church office at 516-349-1966 or church@ourshepherdlives.org if you would like to open your door and your heart and participate in this exciting opportunity. Thank you for your consideration.

Have You Gotten Your Ticket Yet?

THE HOUGHTON COLLEGE CHOIR IS COMING TO GOOD SHEPHERD!

We are extremely excited to announce that on Tuesday of Holy Week, April 11, Houghton College's Choir will be performing a concert here at Good Shepherd!

For 80 years this Choir has committed itself to world-class performances rooted in the sacred a cappella tradition. The Houghton College Choir has renown concert halls and churches including Lincoln Center, Cathedral morial Chapel in Pittsburgh, the Fourth Presbyterian Church in Rittenhouse Square in Philadelphia,

Concert tours have taken this performances in Austria, Czecho-Poland, Lithuania, Germany, Choir has been invited to sing for Directors' Association (ACDA) of Music Education (NAME) confer-clude the United Nations, World tion of Evangelical's National ners have included the Buffalo Phil-Southern Tier Symphony

Widely acclaimed for its College Choir upholds the sacred a while flexibly embracing a diversity a renaissance mass setting, a can spiritual, the Choir delights in

Tickets are on sale now in the for \$25. They will also be available at the door for \$30.

All proceeds from this concert will be used for the *Our Kids Scholarship* fund, specific to the Kontonis children. As you know, the *Our Kids Scholarship* fund is set up to tuition assist families in need, and the Kontonis family came in to such a need on the morning of November 4th when Nikco Kontonis's sister Maria Crumb became a fatal victim of domestic violence. Maria's children, Tiffany (16) and Robbie (12), attended Good Shepherd Lutheran School, and now their cousins, Faith and Nikolas Kontonis, are also among our flock.

Tiffany and Robbie are now living with the Kontonis family, but their house is too small to accommodate all of them comfortably. Good Shepherd has been working closely with congregants Phil Lorch and Robert LaBarbera and a number of organizations to help reconstruct their home to accommodate their suddenly larger family.

Little Nikolas and his sister Faith have both received hardship scholarships to attend Good Shepherd. LuHi's Crusader Fund helped secure funding for Faith. The purpose of this special *Our Kids' Scholarship* appeal is specifically to pay for Nikolas's tuition.

We are certain you will agree this is reason for us to mobilize and come together, and this concert provides us the perfect opportunity. To see view Houghton College Choir's videos and to hear their music, please visit <https://www.youtube.com/user/Houghtoncollegechoir>.



performed in prestigious world-across the United States and abroad, of St. Joseph's in Hartford, Heinz Me-Basilica of St. Mary's in Minneapolis, Chicago, Church of the Holy Trinity at and the Vatican to name a few.

Choir all across the world including slovakia, Estonia, France, Italy, Latvia, Russia, South Korea and Spain. The state and divisional American Choral chapters and the National Association ences. Additional performances in-Council of Churches, and the Associa-Convention. Choral-orchestral part-harmonic, Rochester Philharmonic & Orchestras.

artistry and sensitivity, the Houghton cappella choral tradition of its origins of choral styles. Whether performing baroque motet, or an African Ameri-well-crafted sacred choral music.

church office and in the school office for purchase on the day of the concert



Starts at 5:00

Food for the Body and Soul

It's Soup-er Bowl Sunday

Please Join Us!

When: Sunday Feb. 5, 2017

Where: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Gym

Time: Supper: 5:00PM — Service: 6:00PM

Music by *Nightingale Song*



IT'S SOUP-ER BOWL SUNDAY at *Sunday Night Alive* on Feb 5! Asking all you soup masters to help us with the meal by donating a pot of your favorite soup, approx. 8-10 servings. Need not attend though we'd love for you to come and enjoy the meal and service. Starts at 5:00 p.m. in the gym. Please call Anne Rickmeyer at 458-2034 to make arrangements.



A PARTY IN PURPLE!

Friday February 17,
2017

In Honor of Maria Kontonis

Friends Against Domestic Abuse is hosting a



February 17th

St. James Church - Delaney Hall

80 Hicksville Road

Seaford, NY 11783

Doors Open at 6:30

Ticket Price:

\$20 for adults & \$10 for children 18 and younger



Maria Kontonis

A devoted and loving mother is survived by her beautiful children, Tiffany and Robbie Crumb.

This family is trying to find a way to come to grips with the loss of a beautiful soul. Maria's love for her children, family, and friends was immeasurable. She was taken from this world far too soon and she has left a hole in many hearts.

This fundraiser hopes to brighten the lives of those that miss her the most and to shed light on domestic violence in our world.

Here is how you can help make a difference:

- Buy tickets to a fun night of ZUMBA!
- Donate a basket to be raffled off that night
- Buy raffle tickets for amazing gift baskets
- Make a donation via PayPal or send any questions to FADAorg@optimum.net.

Tickets will be sold at St. James Church in the Religious Ed. Office on the following dates:

Tuesday Jan. 24th

4:00-5:15 & 7-8:15

Wednesday Jan. 25th

4:00-5:15

Thursday January 26th

4:00-5:15 & 7:00-8:15

Saturday Jan. 28th

9:00-10:30

Tickets will also be sold at the door.

Thank you so much for your support and generosity!



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER



Tuesday, February 28

5:30—7:30 pm

in the school gym

Cost: \$3 per adult

\$2 per child

3 or more children +

2 adults = \$10

Reservations required by

February 26

Please sign up in the Narthex



MENU

**Pancakes
&
Sausage
Apple Sauce
Fruit Punch,
Water,
Coffee, Tea
Desserts**

We invite you to the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Evening.

The name "Shrove" comes from the old word "shrive," which means to confess. On Shrove Tuesday, in the Middle Ages, people used to confess their sins so that they were forgiven before the season of Lent began.

Today, however, Shrove Tuesday is a day of celebration because it is the last day before Lent. Traditionally, Lent is a time of abstinence, of giving things up. So Shrove Tuesday is the last chance to indulge, to use up the foods that aren't allowed in Lent. Pancakes were eaten on this day because they contained butter and eggs, which long ago were forbidden during Lent.

Shrove Tuesday is known by other names. Mardi Gras literally means "fat Tuesday" in French. The name comes from the slaughtering and feasting upon a fatted calf on the last day of Carnival, ironically, a Latin word that means "farewell to the flesh."

Regardless of its original meaning, perhaps lost in history, Good Shepherd sees this as an opportunity for good food & the company of Christian friends, the day before Ash Wednesday.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO CELEBRATING WITH YOU!

A VERY SPECIAL RIBBON-CUTTING THANK YOU!

Donated by
FLUSHING BANK
2016

On the morning of January 25, our school board, our staff and each of our Pre-K classes gave thanks to God and to Flushing Bank for their generous donation of three crayon kiosks with six I-pads and all apps to our school. Representatives Christian Mulano (Busy Bees), Liboria Ciullo (Owls), and Christopher Cutrone (Butterflies) each presented A.J. Jin and Francis Korzekwinski of Flushing Bank a personalized thank you card from their classmates. Then Mr. Jin & Mr. Korzekwinski cut the ribbon to launch these little guys into a technological future.





The children of Good Shepherd School celebrated Three King's Day!

Mrs. Irma Carlson visited all of the classrooms and taught the children how Three King's Day (Little Christmas) is celebrated in most Latin American countries by having a piñata party with singing and dancing!



Kimberly Allan ~ 2/27
Lorie Anderson ~ 2/10
Christine Azzaretto ~ 2/9
Nicholas Balos ~ 2/28
Martha Berardino ~ 2/27
Shawn Bigam ~ 2/3
Reese Blaeser ~ 2/19
RJ Bridgwood ~ 2/2
Kyle Bristol ~ 2/6
Joseph Cardarelli ~ 2/4
Alexis DiSapio ~ 2/15
Calista DiSapio ~ 2/20
August Dondero ~ 2/5
Lincoln Doonan ~ 2/20
Andrew Loanidis ~ 2/10
Sabrina Greig ~ 2/28
Brianna Hansen ~ 2/27
Sydney Hsu ~ 2/26
Robert Johnson ~ 2/11
Loré Kachianos ~ 2/22
Billon Kwarta ~ 2/16
Peter LaBarbera ~ 2/14



Adelyn Laver ~ 2/7
Charlotte LeBlond ~ 2/4
Chiara Lindendorf ~ 2/3
Chiara Lindendorf ~ 2/3
Briana Lynch ~ 2/24
Matthew Marlin ~ 2/22
Lillianna Mason ~ 2/20
Allison McCabe ~ 2/17
Sofia Mulada ~ 2/16
Ann Ocker ~ 2/20
Nora Ocker ~ 2/14
Mackenzie Pech ~ 2/12
Skylar Pekarek ~ 2/4
Christina Rutter ~ 2/8
Josef Saueracker ~ 2/1
Veronica Savarese ~ 2/10
Gunhild Schabel ~ 2/18
Patricia Schmidt ~ 2/2
Lauren Sietloff ~ 2/3
Kenneth Steffens ~ 2/23
Nancy Ann Stingelin ~ 2/27
Kimberly Whitenack ~ 2/1



Anniversary Blessings
Fred & Loretta Ruff
57 years on 2/6



It's a Girl!



KATIYA VERALUZ ZACEK

Born 1/5/17
6 lbs., 14 oz., 19"

CONGRATULATIONS!

Grandparents Vera & Karl Zacek

Parents Adam & Natasha Zacek
Aunts, Uncles & Cousins Stephanie Brienza,
Jennifer Stoddart & their families!

It's a Boy!



CHRISTIAN JOHN BROOKS

Born 12/26/16
6 lbs., 10 oz., 19"

CONGRATULATIONS!

Great grandmother Maryann Murphy,
Grandparents Debora & John Brooks
Parents Laura & John Brooks

It's a Girl!



KENNEDY RAE FRIEL

Born 1/7/17
6 lbs., 18.5"

CONGRATULATIONS!

Grandparents Justine & Nick Sciortino

Parents Jimmy & Carisa Friel



Tired of Being Inside?

Stimulate your child in a warm, nurturing environment!

Good Shepherd Lutheran School is offering classes for baby/toddler and you!

Connect with other local parents and make new friends!

Classes are taught by a certified CDA (Child Development Associate) instructor.

Twelve forty-five minute classes @ \$17 each –
Package of 12 classes is \$187 (the first class is free!)
Fridays, February 10th through May 12th



"Sweet Pea and Me": ages 6 – 12 months @ 9:15 a.m.

Music and movement, age-appropriate toys and bubbles, free and structured play



"Mother Goose and Let's Let Loose": ages 13 – 18 months @ 10:15 a.m.

Music and movement, lively introduction to nursery rhymes, free and structured play

"Movers and Groovers": ages 19 – 24 months @ 11:15 a.m.

Music and movement, obstacle courses, tunnels, slides, parachutes, free and structured play

Please call the school at (516) 349-1966 to sign up and for more information!

JOIN US FOR OUR 6TH ANNUAL

Valentine's Dance!



PLEASE JOIN US FOR DINNER, DANCING AND A LOT OF FUN!

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH

6- 8PM

\$10 PER TICKET

Fresh Food for Families

Thursday, March 2nd at 7pm



Cooking demonstration by a professional
chef and nutritionist

*All participants can take home the food
that is made*

Save the Date

**JOIN US FOR THE
ART AUCTION**

AT

GOOD SHEPHERD

Friday, May 19th

****More details to follow****

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<p>8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (spoken) 9:00 a.m. Junior Shepherds, <i>Sharing the Faith</i> Christian Education, Sunday School, Yoga</p> <p>10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist 5:00 p.m. <i>Sunday Night Alive</i> Family Meal 6:00 p.m. <i>Sunday Night Alive</i> Contemporary Worship in gym</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Children's Chapel 10:30 a.m. <i>Lectio Divina</i> Bible Study Noon Seniors' Meeting 2:00 p.m. English Conversation & Introduction to Christianity 6:30 p.m. Bereavement Group</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Prayer & Meditation in Prayer Chapel 10:30 a.m. Pastors' Pericope 7:00 p.m. Women's Basketball 7:30 p.m. School Board 8:30 p.m. Men's Basketball</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Saintry Sewers & Nifty Nitters 6:00 p.m. Magicians Guild 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p>10:30 a.m. Prayer Group followed by Pizza at Shepherd Hill 6:00 p.m. Executive Committee 7:30 p.m. Boy Scouts Troop #423 8:00 p.m. Preacher's Pub at the Inn Between</p>	<p>PASTOR OLSEN'S DAY OFF</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Valentine's Dance</p>	<p>9:00 a.m. - noon Diakonia Course</p>

4

9:00 a.m. - noon
Diakonia Course

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NEW
MEMBERS



MEMBERS
NEWBIES?

On Christ the King Sunday, November 20, Good Shepherd welcomed 15 new members into our church family: Nancy & Gerry Bergold along with their children Kelly and Michael, John Bird, Patricia Cannata, Kelly & John DiPreta, Anthony & Susan Ferraro along with their daughter Jennifer Sgambati and her children Madison & Santino Jr., Raphaela (Rae) Gorka, and Maryann Murphy. We'd like you to "meet" them:

The Bergold family—Nancy and Gerry, Nicole, Kelly, and Michael—have lived in Plainview for 21 years. They have met with Pastor Olsen several times over the past year and a half and started attending our worship services on occasion. Nancy attended Good Shepherd school many years ago and felt instantly reconnected, citing, *"wonderful, positive, and beautiful ambience and messages are what our family receives from this church, and we are thrilled and grateful to now be a part of Good Shepherd."*



John Herbert Bird was born in Jamaica, NY, and attended Woodrow Wilson Vocational High School. At the age of 17 he enlisted in the US Navy and was a boiler man, a job he held till retirement. Some of John's projects included the Staten Island Ferry, the Correction Department, hospitals & colleges, and an industrial corporation that built railroad cars. In 1962, six years after beginning this career, John married Ellen Somerville. The couple moved to Syosset in 1969 where they raised their four children and lived for 33 years. In 2002 John and Ellen moved into Senior Housing in Woodbury. John was raised Episcopal and belonged to a Congregational Church in Queens and Syosset but hasn't been a member in many years. *"It was after only one visit to Good Shepherd and being very impressed with Pastor Olsen that I knew I wanted to be part of this Church,"* John told us.

Patricia Cannata grew up in the Bronx and attended Evander Childs' High School. In 1968 she moved to Plainview where she raised her children Joe and Donna. At the age of 45, when Joe and Donna were in college, Patricia decided to go back to school for her Associates' Degree. The three wound up graduating the same week! Joe from C.W. Post, Donna from Molloy, and Patricia from Farmingdale. She worked at the Variety Children's Center in Syosset until retiring eight years ago. In her free time she enjoys all kinds of crafting. A resident of Shepherd Hill, many of us have already met Patricia as she has come to a number of church events with Dorothy Taurakas and has also attended some of our *Lectio Divina* lessons.

Raphaela Gorka is glad to make Good Shepherd her new faith home after visiting with us many times over the last year. She is proud of her Ukrainian heritage, and most friends call her Rae. An avid collector of pretty things, Rae donated many unique items for the flea market at our Fall Harvest Festival.

The Ferraro family was very active in the life of Good Shepherd Levittown. Tony participated in a number of events, hospitality, and the many sales the church had while Susan was involved in their Christian Education Program. Susan now continues that ministry here at Good Shepherd, assisting one of our teachers in Sunday School. Tony and Susan's daughter Jennifer Sgambati and her two children Madison and Santino, Jr., are great additions to our Sunday School.



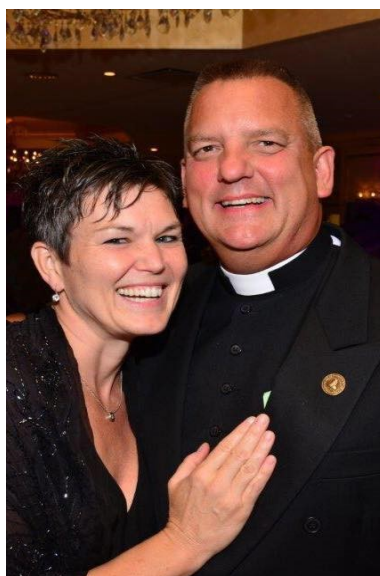
Kelly Melius-Dipreta and her husband John will be celebrating their tenth anniversary later this year. They were introduced to Good Shepherd when Pastor Olsen presided at a memorial service for Kelly's uncle. As part of the family who owns and operates Oheka Castle, Kelly works there as a catering sales associate. The Dipretas donated a highly coveted prize to our Fall Harvest Festival's silent auction last year and are also very generous in supporting our Social Ministry food donations appeal.



Maryann Murphy feels like the luckiest lady in the world, and for her it's all because of family—quite a large one! Born in Italy, Maryann Toscano grew up in Corona with five brothers and married Richard Murphy, who was one of eight, on June 1, 1952. She was a senior switching equipment technician for the telephone company while Richard worked as a firefighter and limousine driver. The Murphys raised their three daughters and three sons in College Point and moved to Plainview about 15 years ago, buying a two-family house with one of their daughters who wanted to raise her family on Long Island. Maryann discovered Good Shepherd by bringing her grandchildren to school here regularly when they were little, and felt its welcome and warmth even then. One of those former little lambs, Christina Rutter, currently works in our extended care program. Maryann has 19 grandchildren (*"33 counting marriages!"* she told us) and 18 great grandchildren. Her youngest great grandchild, Christian John Brooks, was just born the day after Christmas, two months after her 17th great grandchild was born! Richard and Maryann were married for 58 years before he passed away in November 2010, but Maryann looks back only with joy on what a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather he was, and the many blessings of their life. Upon seeing his first great grandchild, Richard turned to Maryann and said, *"We started a dynasty!"*



Lisa and I would like to thank everyone for their kind Christmas & New Year cards, wishes and Gifts. We are truly blessed. Thank you.



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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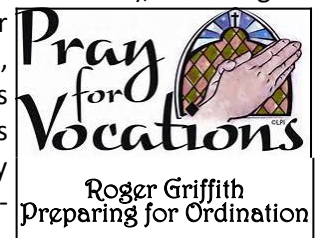
Ministers: The Members of Good Shepherd
Reverend Eric O. Olsen, Senior Pastor
Teresa Ratkowski, School Director and Organist
Maureen Cooke, Church Secretary/Newsletter Editor
Vanessa Bigam, School Secretary
Stephanie Tautz, Newsletter School Pages Designer
Ed Indelicati, Accountant/Bookkeeper
Erik Hansen, Sexton



FOR THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING

Doreen Alexander (Karen Faucera's friend), Helen Anderson, Pam Ann (Lorraine Duffy's friend), Doris Aun (Rickmeyer family friend), Charlie Aviano (Garcia family friend), Katherine B. (Alice Vorstadt's friend), Jean Baker (Gail Kelly's mom), Alex & Derek Bartkow, Elizabeth Bell (Terry Miccio's friend), Paula Bennett, Joe Berardino, Joe R. Berardino, Martha Berardino, Eleanor Bierlmaier Dugan, John Binsfeld (Benner family friend), Edwina Bishop, Cherish Bliefernack (Eisele/Vorstadt friend), Janet Brazel (Terry Miccio's relative), Heather Bouchard, Laura & John Brooks, George Burger (Sabrina & Kathy Schindelheim's father), Brad Carbone & family (R. Benson family friend), Lynn Carlson, Jennifer Carrieri, Bill Carroll (Rose Minnick's friend), Olga Colandro (Olsen family friend), Patricia Colon (Ann Rickmeyer's friend), Gisela Conforti, Baby Maya Contreras & family (Alice Vorstadt's relatives), David Cronin, Chris Cucci, Eleanor Davis, Frank Dell'Aquila (GSL teacher Diane Kideris's father), Claudia DeMauro, Georgeann Diblasi (Sue Wakefield's relative), Gregory Diehl (Dorothy Turaukas's son), Denise Donitz, Anna Duda (Denise Bartkow's mother), Lorraine

Duffy, Steven Dux (Irma Carlson's friend), Dilliana Edwards, Al Ehl, Becky Ernst (Paul Wenger's cousin), Julie Esposito (Christin Walsh's friend), Michael & Richard Faithfull (Grappone family friends), Eric Faret, Delores Feminella (Vorstadt relative), Ricky Fedyk (Sue Wakefield's friend), Irene Fields (Vincent Cronin's sister), Marcelle Figlo, Norma Gattulli (Kathy Prinz's friend), Len Ganz (Sue Devine's friend), Jackie Gentner, Lilah & Jim Gillett (Kathy Prinz's friends), Jessica Gruenfelder (Lori Mason's colleague), Florence Grovel (Veronica Savarese's mother), Tom Gucciardo (Olsen family friend), Liz Haley (Lorraine Duffy's friend), Kenneth Hall (Ronn's brother), Sean Harrison (Lorch family friend), Ellen Harvey (Terry Miccio's friend), Joan Healy (John Schwaninger's friend, Doug Heigl (Patty Larson's friend), Diane Helmers, Kevin Hickey, Margaret Holleran (Eleanor Pearson's friend), Imari (Karen Faucera's friend), Michelle Jackowdik (Annmarie Brown's relative), Ben Jankowski, Bill Johnson (Kitty Hall's relative), Robby Johnson, Robin Kane (Rose Minnick's relative), Mary Jane Krenkel (Terry Miccio's aunt), Evelyn & Niko Kontonis & their family, Kristen & Mario (McGowan family friend), Kenneth Lane, Martha Langjahr, Roger Luedtke (Sue Devine's brother in law), Lois Lengenfelder, Jean Lombardo (Rickmeyer family friend), Angel & Christopher Lorch, Ron Lupi (Meyer family friend), Kim Maca (Kathy Prinz's friend), Joe Marino (Annmarie Brown's relative), Vanessa Masih (Lisa Cacchioli's student's sister), John Mark, Virginia Marshall (Sue Devine's friend), Matt Massucci & his family (Vollono family friend), Diane Matales (Lilli Schulz's friend), Steve McCoy (Sue Wakefield's friend), The McCullough family (Vorstadt family friend), Patti McSkane (Kathy Prinz's friend), Annette Meitzner (Roy Steinhilber's friend), Teddy Moore (Miccio family friend), Maryellen Moyse, Karen Murphy (Donna Hickey's friend), Jessica Nenni (Andrea Uzzo's friend), Doris Onderdonk (Mason family friend), Meghan Ortega (Lisa Olsen's niece), Eric Page (Karen Faucera's friend), Bob Podewils (Boy Scout leader), Kathleen Power (our landscaper's wife), Mark Prowatzke (Danny Wenger's father in law), Kerry & Doug Rausch & family, Justin Rogers (Karin Kienle's nephew), Susanna Yacenda Savarese, Glenn Schabel, Gunhild Schabel, Margaret & Craig Schumacker (John Mark's relative), Lisa Shaffer (Kathy Prinz's friend), Ken Sharvin (Pastor Olsen's friend), Chris Shroyer (Austin Flink's friend), Diane Sicca (Debbie Garcia's sister), Jennifer Sorenson (Cathy Vollono's friend), Matthew Spangler, Judy Stal (Christine Adolphus's daughter), Josie (Vicar Adam's friend), Ken Steffens, Ruth & Charlie Strakele, Tara Stratton (Anne Rickmeyer's friend), Ed Strauhs, Ruth Sunbach (Lisa Olsen's friend), Carter Suozzi, (Kevin Ocker's colleague's grandson), Baby Raymond Tarnok (Pat Fiedler's nephew), Joyce Tare, Debbie Tassi (Denise Donitz's sister), Brittany & Sue Thomas, Julie Tripmacher (Terry Miccio's relative), Sheryl Tubiolo (Karen Faucera's friend), Marion Tucker (Nancy's mother), Barbara Tung (Karen Faucera's friend), Donald Unger, Kathy Van Driessche, Janet Vorstadt, Sarah Waters (Lisa Olsen's colleague), Clifton Weed (Fiedler family friend), Maya Wenger, Marilyn Weyant (Maisch family friend), Annie Wilkom (Wenger family friend) Arlene Wittwer, Brother George Zenle (Wenger family friend) Jennifer & Nicole (Genevieve's Helping Hands).



FOR OUR MILITARY: Keith & Kyle Calderone (Army), SGT Sean Hassett (Lori Mason's cousin), CPTs Brian & Daniel McGrath (Grappone family friend), MAJ Paul Rickmeyer, Captain Robert Saueracker, LTC. Phillip Sounia, USMC, Corporal Nicholas Ventrelli-O'Connell (Patty Larson's family friend).

FOR THOSE WHO ARE GRIEVING: Vicar Adam Reinhardt and the family and friends of his uncle, Steven Grau; the family and friend of Ex Chief Dick Kaplan (Jericho FD).



SERVICE SCHEDULE

ALTAR CARE
Anne Rickmeyer



DATE	SERVICE	ASSISTING MINISTERS	LECTOR	USHERS (10:15 a.m.)	ETHEL'S COFFEE HOUR
February 5 Fifth Sunday Of the Epiphany	8:00 a.m.	Bonnie McGowan	Richard Benson	The Broggy Family Cathy Vollono	Please consider hosting
	10:15 a.m.	Anne Rickmeyer Liam Broggy			
	6:00 p.m.	Sunday Night Alive			
February 12 Sixth Sunday Of the Epiphany	8:00 a.m.	Patty Larson	Anne Rickmeyer	Gisela Conforti Pat Fiedler Donna Hickey Alice Vorstadt	Property Team
	10:15 a.m.	Lori Mason Kathy Ocker			
	6:00 p.m.	Kurt Langjahr			
February 19 Seventh Sunday Of the Epiphany	8:00 a.m.	Ronn Hall	Cathy Vollono	Sue Devine Wendy & Jim Jansky Bonnie & John McGowan	Please consider hosting
	10:15 a.m.	Terry Miccio Anne Rickmeyer			
	6:00 p.m.	Taize			
February 26 Eighth Sunday Of the Epiphany	8:00 a.m.	Bonnie McGowan	Ellen Sangesland	Richard & Ellen Benson George & Inara Hirn	Communications
	10:15 a.m.	Marge Wenger Christin Walsh			
	6:00 p.m.	Lori DeFilippis			

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil and Jeff Keane



"I want this to be a good day, Mommy. Is this the right side of the bed for me to get up on?"

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
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"Sorry, Brother Ambrose. Retweeting counts as breaking your vow of silence."

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
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We're Going On Retreat! Please Come Along!



We might not have gotten to Koinonia last year, but we're sure going to do it this year! Come with us over the weekend of 3/31 – 4/2. We have blocked 12 rooms in the conference center—each room has two queen beds, private bathroom, and accommodates up to four people. Prices are \$206/single; \$160/each for two adults; \$130/each for three or more adults; \$75 for ages 5 through and including 12 and free for children under 5. These prices include meals from Saturday breakfast through

Sunday brunch with 10:30 a.m. worship on Sunday. Rooms are on a first-come-first-serve release so if you would like to be included, please contact the church office as soon as possible. What a great way to ring in spring and reflect over the final weekend before Palm Sunday than by retreating to beautiful, peaceful Koinonia with your own family and your church family.

SHARING THE FAITH: THE MORALITY OF THE CIVIL WAR

Due to the overwhelming interest in January 22nd's *Sharing the Faith* topic, "The Morality of the Civil War," we have decided to continue this discussion with Jim Jacobson, our in-house expert on Sunday, February 5th, at 9 a.m. in the Agape Room. Please join us.

The Lives of Great Christians

For those who missed our compelling series on *The Lives of Great Christians*, beginning in the March newsletter *Sharing the Faith Christian Education* will have a monthly column spotlighting one of the Great Christians we discussed during that series.

But first, what exactly makes a Great Christian?

In the most fundamental sense, Christians seek to be followers and imitators of Christ. To gain knowledge of the life and teachings of Jesus one has only to begin with our four gospels. This series of articles will focus on those Christian's actions as they tried to live according to Christ's teachings.

Please be sure to check out *Sharing the Faith's* column in next month's newsletter as we take a look at those individuals who truly were Great Christians.

- Submitted by Jim Blewett

UPCOMING BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 12

GS Women's Green vs. Trinity in Huntington @ 4:45 p.m.
GS Women's Blue vs. St. Peters in Huntington @ 6:00 p.m.
GS Men's vs. Trinity Red at GS @ 8:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 19

GS Men's vs. Calvary at GS @ 6:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 25

GS Men's vs. St. Peter's at GS @ 7:15 p.m.

FEBRUARY 26

Women's GS Blue vs. GS Green @ 6:00 p.m.

MARCH 5

GS Women's Green vs. St. Peter's in Huntington @ 6:00 p.m.
GS Women's Blue vs. Trinity in Huntington @ 7:15 p.m.
S Men's vs. St. Peter's in Huntington @ 8:30 p.m.

FEW THINGS ARE MORE CONVENIENT THAN ELECTRONIC GIVING

Our December newsletter featured articles by Dell-Ann Benson and Bob Rickmeyer about making electronic offerings and its benefits. To give you an idea of what electronic offerings entail, below is a screen shot of the on-line set-up process. As you can see, it is nothing to be intimidated by and something in which you have very much control over. Our Online Donations feature allows you to set up your regular weekly offerings and/or a schedule of recurring special gifts, such as if you made a monthly pledge to the parsonage renovation campaign, or a one-time special gift like a memorial. For recurring offerings, you simply input the information once and don't worry about it for the rest of the year!

Giving electronically offers consistency on both you and your church. For you it eliminates having to play catch up when you miss a service or two or if you forgot to write out a check or put it in your offering envelope (yes, many of us have done that!). If you are out of town for a week or two or are a snowbird, you won't have to worry about mailing in your offering or running it up to the church office. It happens automatically per your instructions. It also helps you to stay current in maintaining your annual pledge budgeting. There is much flexibility you'll have regarding the frequency of your offerings and the day or dates you'd like to make them. The consistency of electronic offerings helps your church as well, in the receiving, recording, and managing regular offerings as well as budgeting into the future.

In order to give either a regular offering or special gift (or both) electronically, simply visit our church's website, www.ourshepherdlives.org and click on the *donate online* button on the right side of the home page. It will bring you to the page below. From there, simply complete the form as if it were on a piece of paper, entering your electronic offering(s).

Also available is the option of charging your offering to a credit card or through your bank account. It's all up to you. The system is completely safe and confidential. Please consider trying it. You may stop at any time.

Indeed, few things are more convenient!

Online Donation

[View Mobile Site](#) [Return to our Home Page](#)

Donations

If you have created an Online Profile profile, please "**Log In**" in order to utilize or change your saved banking information, modify dates or amounts of recurring donations, track and print your online donation history, or update your password. Otherwise continue below.

To enter a donation select an entry from either **Regular Church Offerings** or **Special Gifts and Donations**, enter an amount and donation frequency then press **Continue** to enter your banking or credit card information.

Please note that a designation may optionally be entered for **Extra Offerings**, and for **Special Gifts and Donations**.

Regular Church Offerings

-Regular Offerings: x


-Extra Offerings (Advent, Christmas, etc.):


Special Gifts and Donations

- Amount:

Total: \$0.00

Donation Frequency: ([About recurring donations](#))

Donation Start Date: mm/dd/yy 

Donation End Date: (optional) mm/dd/yy 

Optional:

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Password:

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Create Your Online Profile

PUTTING AWAY THE BLUES

Rev. Forrest Parkinson, LMSW, LP, LCC Pastoral Psychotherapist

(Matthew 2:11: They went into the house and when they saw the child with his mother, Mary, they knelt down and worshiped him. They brought out their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, and presented them to him.)

Last year a friend taught me a wonderful Christmas lesson over three cups of coffee. I'll condense it here: *"I'm really trying to let Christmas 'soak in' this year. Every year's such a letdown. Just as I'm seeing the Christmas trees put out to the curb, I feel like the 'Christmas Spirit' is gone. Everything is back to grind, back to the gray and coping with winter slush and taxes. But I'm not giving in this year. I've got to bring the Christmas Spirit into the New Year."*

"I'm fighting off the winter blues by focusing on two things; giving and gratitude. Joe does most of the cooking, you know, I'm just not the cook. But on Wednesdays he's always late so I have to get something together, and you know, it's the minimum. And usually I've got an attitude. So last Wednesday I decided to make an effort and give everyone their favorite dinner. They appreciated it, but more importantly, I just felt great about myself and it brought us closer together, too. If the Three Kings can cross the desert to bring a gift, I want to do that for my family."



The "winter blues" can sap us. The energy of our faith can, and should, inspire us to bring a new spirit into the new year. My friend was inspired by the effort of the Magi and I was inspired by her. Seeking the Holy in everyday life takes effort, but the time is well invested. God is with us.

While the energy of the holiday fades, it is up to us to bring the spirit of "God-With-Us" into our new year. The Gospel imperative is the dual impulse to embrace the divine in our hearts and engage the sacred in our neighbor. The Magi did that and so can we.

The energetic activity of the Christmas season can fade away or we can let it train our attitude, transforming gray moments with bright generosity. Imagine ordinary tasks transformed by treating them as gifts not only to delight others, but to honor the Holy? There is no room for poisonous resentment in acts of generous giving. Following Jesus entails a shift to devoting ourselves to serving others.

In our moments of prayer, we can resolve to ask for God's help to apply the lessons of Christmas. Our prayers can be light in the darkness of our struggles and discontent. Imagine contemplating our cares and worries with the firm purpose to seek God and to trust we will find God in the life we live daily? Seeking the Holy as we live and pray brings the light of Christmas and the promise of Jesus into the new year.

Pastor Parkinson counsels adults and couples at LCC's Advent, NYC, and Mineola sites. Call the Lutheran Counseling Center at 516-741-0994 or 1-800-317-1173 or e-mail us at Center@lccny.org for more information or to set an appointment. LCC has nine counseling sites in and around metropolitan New York. Visit our website at www.lccny.org.