#### FEBRUARY 2018



I was invited to do the invocation at the swearing in of our newly elected County Legislature at the Cradle of Aviation on January 5th.

I would like to share with you the words I shared with them on that day.



From Lastor's

County Executive Curran, presiding officer Nicolello, honorable legislators, distinguished colleagues and guests, blessed New Year to you and your loved ones.

**GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL** 

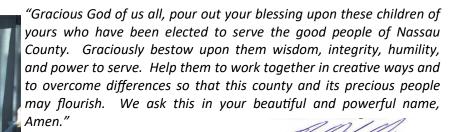
Here in this Cradle of Aviation, a place dedicated to Nassau County's key role in aviation history, gathering with all of you who recently soared to election victory to govern this fine county and its greatest treasure—its people...I would like to begin this invocation with a reflection on the ancient wisdom and sacred beliefs of the originators of democracy—the mythological story of the great inventor Daedalous and his son, lcarus.

Daedalous crafts wings out of wax and feathers for the two of them to fly to freedom. The father tells the son to follow his path of flight and not to fly too low lest the spray of the sea cause the feathers to get wet nor too high lest the heat of the sun melt the wax. His father in effect warns the son against both complacency and dangerous pride. The son of course does not heed the wisdom of the father and succumbs to hubris, and his life ends tragically.

These days we see many politicians who forsake the wisdom of our divine parent and choose against following the honorable true path of integrity and fall victim of complacency and hubris. The result is tragic, for the treasure is lost and the people are not served.

The Abrahamic faiths all celebrate the prophet king Solomon and his legendary wisdom. All hold him as the greatest ruler in history because he relied upon God's divine wisdom and power to rule. He humbled himself before God and served the people with integrity. May the same be true for each of you my dear friends.

Let us now bow our hearts and heads asking our divine parent for the wisdom and power to serve the good people of Nassau County.









# A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Have you ever spent most of the night trying to solve something in your sleep, think it is worked out, only to awaken in the morning and realize your brilliant solution makes no sense?

My newsletter article was due yesterday; and instead of writing, I devoted my day to putting Christmas away and getting normal living out. Yes, it was January 22, but we were gone two weeks and wanted to make up the time with our Christmas decorated

house. This is not unusual for us. Our first Christmas together we went back to St Louis to see family, bought sale Christmas decorations, got a free tree on January 6, put it up, and left it up almost until Easter. We love Christmas!

So my brain was working on the newsletter article in my dreams. Dreams can be unfettered, unless you are trying to run away: your feet won't move, your car won't start. In our best dreams, we leap and do masterful, gravity-defying pirouettes in the air, twisting and turning, lithe and young. In fact, I will tell you a secret: **in my dreams I can fly**. Last night I did not fly. I was stuck on earth in bed trying to write. My thoughts were about ministry, what being **called** means, and the inertia which keeps us in place, unable to build up the speed, to abandon our fears to take off and let our ministry for Jesus soar.

It isn't unusual that I should be thinking about ministry. Two Sundays in a row the gospels dealt with the call of the disciples. Jesus called ordinary people like you and me and turned them into people who became extra-ordinary. Mixed with these thoughts were the sounds of the anthem we sang on January 21: *"No Body Now but Yours" by Steven C. Warner* 

"Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours, Here on this earth Yours is the work, to serve with the joy of compassion No hands but yours to heal the wounded world no hands but yours to soothe all its suffering no touch but yours to bind the broken hope of the people of God No eyes but yours to see as Christ would see To find the lost to gaze with compassion No eyes but yours to glimpse the holy joy of the city of God No feet but yours to journey with the poor To walk this world with mercy and justice Yours are the steps to bills a lasting peace for the children of God Through every gift, give back to those in need As Christ has blessed so now be his blessing with every gift a benediction be to the people of God."

Pastor asked us how often have we been called? how often have we heard the "follow me" of Jesus? My thoughts answered, "many times." Sometimes I follow. Many times I act as if I haven't heard. Jesus could **NOT** have meant me. He was calling someone else. If we are honest with ourselves, we know Jesus is calling us every day, every minute of every day, to live out His mission. Our mission is loving, living, and sharing Christ, to be His body, His hands, His feet, His Eyes! We are called to be a blessing!

## **Council News**

<u>Shrove Tuesday</u>: Thanks to Jim and Lori Mason for agreeing to host Shrove Tuesday on 2/13 and the Lenten Soup Suppers. Can you believe Lent is beginning? Mark it down!!

<u>Carpet Installation</u>: The carpeting has been ordered and is ready to be installed. We will wait until the second week of March to get past the snow, ice, and salting season instead of installing it in January as previously stated.

**Nominating Committee:** Has been appointed for discerning candidates for council and the GSFDB for the May Meeting of the Congregation. Loretta Ruff has agreed to be chair the committee along with Kevin Ocker, and Erika Jurik.

Investments Committee: In November we were given a 6/30 and 9/30/2017 balance sheet from the Investment Committee dealing with the Good Shepherd, Raubenheimer, and Our Kids Scholarship Funds. As of 9/30 the total fair market value of the combined funds is approximately \$950,000.

Some history may be needed: In the early 1980s property was sold where the Shepherd Hill apartments now stand for approximately \$515K. In 1981 the congregation determined interest from these monies would be used to fund **new ministries in the broader** church. Over a million dollars has been given in grant money, including about 30% back to Good Shepherd for new ministries or assistant pastor/vicar funding. For investment purposes, a bequest in the 1980s of 125K from the Raubenheimer Estate (used to fund property issues) and our Kid's Scholarship Fund were combined.

In January, Council met with the Investments Committee to discuss the current investment strategy (determined by a congregational meeting in 1995) and to request quarterly reporting. Undistributed interest earnings through 9/30/2018 stand at about 39K.

The last time we awarded grants out into the community was in 2015. We gave seven grants and well after 6 months (which was required in the reporting process), we had received no reporting on the progress of these ministries. The GSFDB sent letters asking for this. We received three back. In one of the awards given to two churches (not reported but heard otherwise), the project fell apart and the two churches hold this money. Since then money was awarded to start our healing service in spring, 2017, and some money was used for partially funding vicars/assistant pastors.

It has been 37 years since the purpose of this fund was established. Questions include: do we continue to use it to fund outside ministries? use it for ministries of Good Shepherd? borrow from it to fund property concerns? or something else? Discussion as a congregation, thought, and prayer is needed. Do we affirm our original decision regarding the use of these funds or discern different opportunities?

In ALL we do, it is important to remember that this discussion is related to how we carry out our mission of being the **Body of Christ - His hands – His eyes - His feet.** 



Your family...and your church family? We 8<sup>th</sup> for a family retreat at beautiful, peacewill be off from school that week, and it break! Each room in the Conference room, and accommodates up to four WIFI, and a new, greatly improved food for two adults; \$131/each for three or including 12 and free for children under 5. fast through Sunday brunch with



have reserved the weekend of April 6, 7 & ful Koinonia, right after Easter. The kids would be a great way to end their Easter Center has two queen beds, a private bathpeople. We are told that they now have service! Prices are \$207/single; \$161/each more adults; \$76 for ages 5 through and This includes meals from Saturday break-10:30 a.m. worship on Sunday. If you'd like

to join us, please submit to the church office or in the offering plate a check in the proper amount payable to Good Shepherd. Be sure to write "Koinonia" on the memo line. Some people have expressed an interest in going on this retreat but are unable to make that long drive. If you would be able to accommodate an extra passenger or two in your car, please call the church office. If you would like to join us but are experiencing financial hardship, please speak to Pastor Olsen. We sure don't want that to be the reason you miss this!



Tuesday, February 13 5:30 to 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 11 Please sign up either in the School Office or Narthex



You're Invited to a

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

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 Hope You Can Join Us & Look Forward to Celebrating with You!

## Lives of Great Christians: JOHN WESLEY

This month we will be taking a look at the life of John Wesley and the beginnings of the Methodist religion. "One of the problems that the churches of the Reformation faced was that those who had political support became comfortable and hence, in certain ways, like the Catholic Church in the 16<sup>th</sup> century from which they had withdrawn. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century a movement named *Pietism* began within the Lutheran Church. *Pietism* called for more emphasis

on living a Christian life outward forms of piety. ley and his prolific hymn were influenced by this Methodist established England to bring the to basics. Although the Church of England, one of the most wideanity in the English-John Wesley 1703 in Epworth, Engchild born to Samuel John's father Samuel the Rector in Epworth. Church in Oxford and Bachelor of Arts а



and less on doctrine and The Anglican John Weswriter brother Charles movement and soon societies throughout Church of England back John Wesley never left his followers created spread forms of Christispeaking world."<sup>1</sup>

was born in June of land. He was the 15<sup>th</sup> and Susanna Wesley. was a poet and was also John went to Christ graduated in 1724 with degree. In September

1725 John became a deacon in the Church of England, and was ordained two years later as an Anglican priest. It has been reported that John lived a methodical, rigid life. He read scripture daily and took his religious duties seriously. Wesley fully supported the Lutheran *Pietism* movement's emphasis that Christianity ultimately was about love and not doctrine.

Soon after, John and Charles formed the Holy Club. The premise was to live a devout Christian life. Praying daily, fasting on Wednesdays and Fridays, receiving communion every Sunday, and reading the Bible were weekly endeavors. In 1729 the brothers founded the Methodist Society. In 1730 they began to visit those in prison and minister to the sick. They were referred to as Methodist because of their methodical ways. And within ten years their movement spread to London, Bristol, and other parts of England.

John and his brother did not remain in England. Over this ten-year period they both traveled to America and spent some time in Georgia. They were also influenced by a movement called the *Moravian Brethren* which was inspired by the *Pietist* movement in Germany. John went through a personnel conversion when he heard one of the Brethren members read from Martin Luther's commentary on Paul's letter to the Romans. He was greatly influenced by Luther's concept of justification by faith. So we can the effect our own Lutheran Faith had on the Wesleys.

For the next 40 years hundreds of Methodist Societies were set up throughout England and America. We can imagine how well traveled John was. It's been reported that he traveled well over 250,000 miles and gave as many as 40,000 sermons. Though John Wesley never formally left the Church of England, his Methodist followers split with the Anglicans at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century just a few years after both John and Charles died. John Wesley died on March 2, 1791.

The idea of "Christian perfection" is John Wesley's main contribution to Christian thought. He believed that by faith one could achieve perfection. But by perfection he knew that even Christians weren't perfect at all times. He did, however, believe that scripture supports his idea of Christian perfection, referring to Psalm 130, 1 John, Romans and Jesus' own words "be perfect even as your Father in heaven is perfect."

Submitted by: James B. Blewett

## Please Help Us Continue to Make Miracles Happen!

In 2 Kings 4 Elisha the prophet was approached by a widow who had great debt. The creditors were threatening to take the widow's sons as slaves so the prophet asked what she had of value. The widow said only a small jar of oil. Elisha instructed her to borrow empty vessels—as many as she could collect from all of her neighbors to bring them into her home and to shut the door and then to fill all the vessels from her little jar of oil. A miracle occurred! All of the vessels were filled



to the brim! She was then able to sell the oil and save her sons and provide for her family.

Here at Good Shepherd the Elisha fund helps provide miraculous relief through your generous gifts to the most vulnerable in our parish community. Please consider making a gift to the Elisha fund so this important ministry may continue unimpeded.

Checks should be made payable to Good Shepherd with Elisha fund written in the memo section. Thank you for helping to make miracles happen!



ASH WEDNESDAY IS FEBRUARY 14!

We will hold a service of Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes at 7:30 p.m. here at Good Shepherd and a prayer service with Imposition of Ashes at 2:00 p.m. at Shepherd Hill Community Center.
 Confirmation class will be held at 6:30 p.m. and the students are asked to remain and participate in our Holy Eucharist/Imposition of Ashes worship at 7:30 p.m.





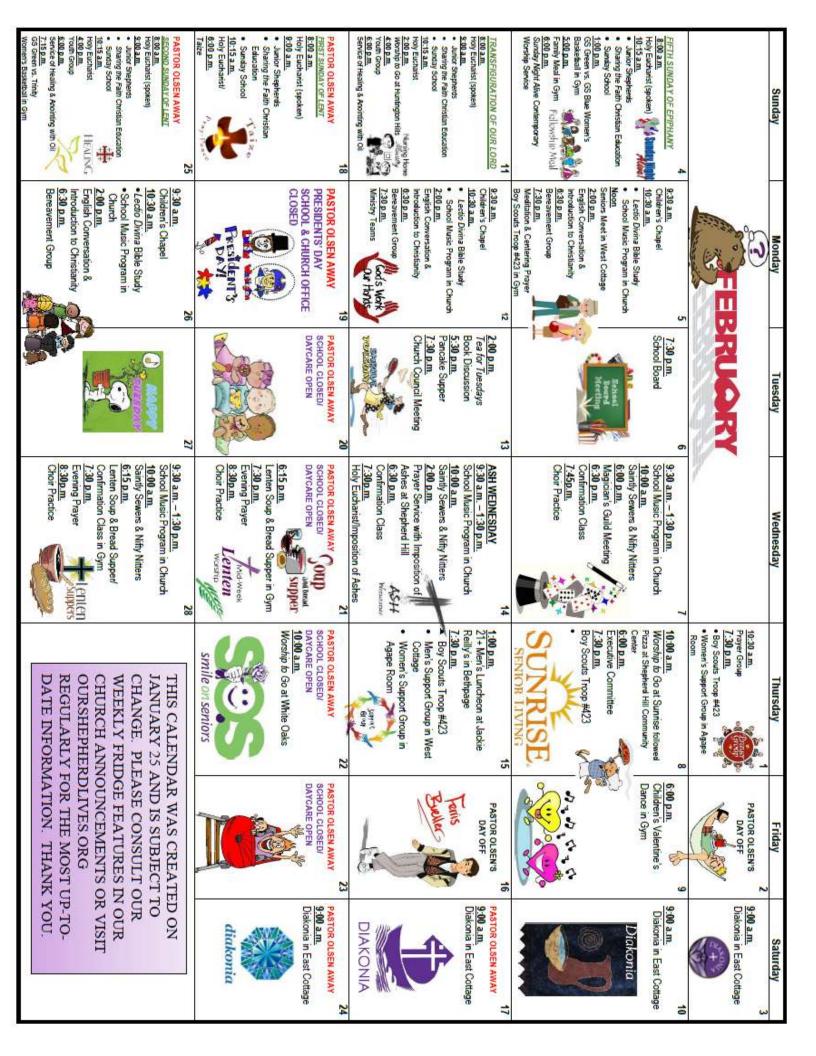
The St. Baldrick's Foundation is holding its annual head-shaving event at Mattlin Middle School's gym on Monday, March 12th, from 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Once again Good Shepherd will be participating in this important fundraiser for childhood cancer research and invite you to be part of our team! Last year our team of only four people raised \$3,259. Please help us surpass that amount by participating and/or donating!

You can actively participate either as a shaver, a barber, or a volunteer. Don't be scared! *"Shaving your head"* does not mean going bald if you don't want that. It can be just a simple buzz cut.

If you would like to participate or donate to Team Good Shepherd, please register at <u>https://www.stbaldricks.org/teams/mypage/116747/2018</u>. If you prefer not to donate on line, please see the next page for a donation sheet or pick one up in the narthex. Fill it out and mail it in with your check **payable to St. Baldrick's Foundation**, 1333 South Mayflower Avenue, Suite 400, Monrovia, CA 91016. Please consider asking your employer if they have a donation matching program and be sure to include that on the form.

Whether you participate or not, be sure to stop by Mattlin Middle School on the 12th for food, raffles, hair extensions & lots of fun! Maybe you'll win some great prizes! Thank you for your support!

SB St. Baldrick's FOUNDATION Conquer Childhood Cancers			Donation Form Want your donation posted to the website faster? Give by credit card online at StBaldricks.org or by phone at 888.899.BALD (2253).		
n/a			n/a		
Name of Reci	pient: Participant / Fundraiser / Memorial / F	Hero Fund	Recipient ID#		
2018	TEAM GOOD SHEPHERD	T-116747	H.B. Mattlin Middle School	E-10352	
Event Year	Team Name	Team ID#	Event Title	Event ID#	
Donation					
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Cash Pl	lease do not mail cash. Turn in your donation ne recipient or at the event.	In Hon to Recog	or of: nition name to display on website:		
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DATE	SERVICE	ASSISTING MINISTERS	LECTOR	USHERS	ETHEL'S COFFEE HOUR
February 4 Fifth Sunday of the Epiphany	8:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Ronn Hall John Schwaninger Sue Carentz Sunday Night Alive	Alex Carrion	John Bird Rich & Ellen Benson George & Inara Hirn	Evangelism Team
February 11 Transfiguration of our Lord	8:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Karin Kienle Alexa Morales Kathy Ocker Lori DeFilippis Rose Minnick	Helen Kwong LaBarbera	John Bird Cathy Aldrich Dean & Annmarie Brown Karen Faucera	Lois Fassino
Ash Wednesday	7:30 p.m.	Lori Mason Marge Wenger	Paul Wenger	N/A	N/A
February 18 First Sunday of Lent	8:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Ronn Hall Lisa Cacchioli Terry Miccio John Schwaninger Taize	Richard Benson	John Bird The Tollefsen Family The Uzzo Family	Please Consider Hosting
February 25 Second Sunday of Lent	8:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m.	Lisa Cacchioli Marge Wenger Alex Carrion	Cathy Vollono	John Bird Patty Larson The Saueracker Family	Worship & Music
	6:00 p.m.	Lori Defilippis Kurt Langjahr			

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### GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

99 Central Park Road, Plainview, NY 11803 Phone: 516-349-1966 E-mail: church@ourshepherdlives.org Teresa.Ratkowski@gsplainview.org Vanessa.Bigam@gsplainview.org Websites: ourshepherdlives.org gsplainview.org

Facebook: Good Shepherd Plainview Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and School

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Ministers: The Members of Good Shepherd Reverend Eric O. Olsen, Pastor Reverend Bob Kasting, Assistant Pastor, Youth & Family Deacon Eric Faret, Seminarian Field Worker Maureen Cooke, Church Secretary/Newsletter Editor Teresa Ratkowski, School Director and Organist Vanessa Bigam, School Secretary Stephanie Tauz, Newsletter School Pages Designer Ed Indellicati, Accountant/Bookkeeper Erik Hansen, Sexton



	2/4	1:00 p.m.	Green vs. Blue	Good Snepherd
	2/11	6:00 p.m.	Green vs. St. Peter's	St. Peter's
	2/11	7:15 p.m.	Blue vs. Trinity	St. Peter's
ſ	2/25	4:45 p.m.	Blue vs. St. Peter's	St. Peter's
ſ	2/25	7:15 p.m.	Green vs. Trinity	Good Shepherd
ſ	3/4	1:00 p.m.	Green vs. Blue	Good Shepherd
ſ	3/11	TBA	1 vs. 4	Semi Finals
	3/18	TBA	Finals	TBA

# THE TREASURES OF GOOD SHEPHERD!

On January 14 our Sunday School children and their families gathered together in the church for a scavenger hunt. The children went around the sanctuary looking for answers to a list of questions. As they hunted for answers, they talked to their friends and parents. And we all learned about God's house!

> Submitted by Stephanie Brienza



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

Mrs. Trma 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!

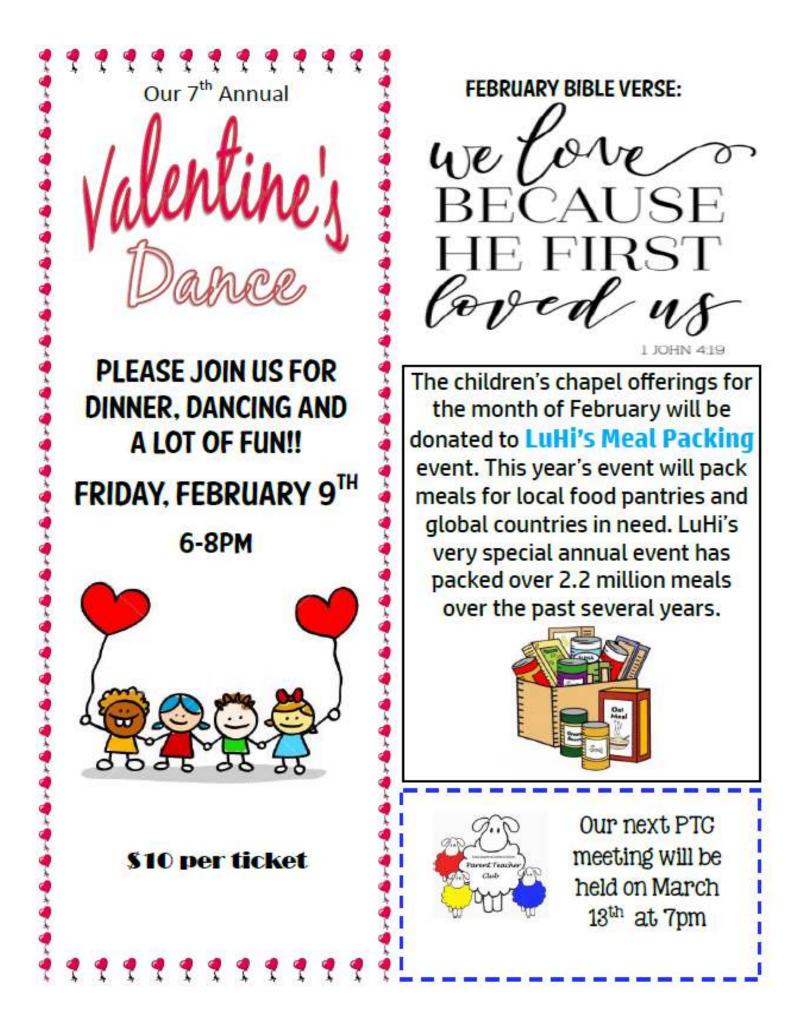






Petland Discounts Traveling Pet Show came to visit the children of Good Shepherd School. We were all very excited to meet our new animal friends!







くうくう くう くう くう くう くう

School Children will be singing at church on February 11<sup>th</sup> at the 10:15am service. See you there!



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Just a reminder that the school will be closed on February 19<sup>th</sup> in observance of President's Day. *Only* Infant/Toddler daycare will be open during regular hours February 20<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>

## וננני ני ננני וינגני ני וננני

Good Shepherd School hosted its second FREE child ID event. Parents and/or guardians can ease their minds knowing their child(ren) have their very own identification card containing vital information in case of an emergency. Parents and/or guardians filled out a simple information sheet and their child's ID card was printed in minutes right in our hallway! Most families took advantage of this opportunity.





## Happy Birthday

Kimberly Allan ~ 2/27 Christine Azzaretto ~ 2/9 Theresa Argus ~ 2/23 Nicholas Balos ~ 2/28 Martha Berardino ~ 2/27 Shawn Bigam ~ 2/3 Reese Blaeser ~ 2/19 RJ Bridgwood ~ 2/2 Kyle Bristol ~ 2/6 Isabella Carpenter ~ 2/10 Jacob DeVincenzo ~ 2/8 Alexis DiSapio ~ 2/15 Calista DiSapio ~ 2/20 August Dondero ~ 2/5 Lincoln Doonan ~ 2/20 Andrew Foanidis ~ 2/10 Sabrina Greig ~ 2/28 Altan Guler ~ 2/10 Brianna Hansen ~ 2/27 Robert Johnson ~ 2/11 Loré Kachianos ~ 2/22 Dillon Kwarta ~ 2/16

Peter LaBarbera ~ 2/14 Sophia Lambdin ~ 2/18 Gavin Lamendola ~ 2/6 Charlotte LeBlond ~ 2/4 Chiara Lindenfeld ~ 2/3 Julianna Lunt ~ 2/27 Matthew Marlin ~ 2/22 Lillianna Mason ~ 2/20 Allison Mecabe ~ 2/17 Sofia Mulada ~ 2/16 Ann Ocker ~ 2/20 Nora Ocker ~ 2/14 Mackenzie Pech ~ 2/12 Skylar Pekarek ~ 2/4 Josef Saueracker ~ 2/1 Veronica Savarese ~ 2/10 Gunhild Schabel ~ 2/18 Patricia Schmidt ~ 2/2 Shaana Shanthosh ~ 2/22 Lauren Sieloff ~ 2/3 Kenneth Steffens ~ 2/23 Nancy Ann Stingelin ~ 2/27 Kimberly Whitenack ~ 2/1

Fred & Loretta Ruff 58 years on 2/6 Kímberly & Chrístopher Vargas 2 years on 2/20



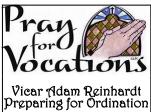
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## THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING Gloria Albreicht (Alice Vorstadt's friend),

Doreen Alexander (Karen Faucera's friend), Allison & Dave (Karin Kienle's friends), Barbara Altman (Alice Vorstadt's friend), Helen Anderson, W. Richard Anderson, Charlie Aviano (Garcia family friend), Barbara Bajore, Chris Balos, Alex & Derek Bartkow, Marilyn & Paul Benner, Joe & Carol Berardino, Joe R. Berardino, Martha Berardino, Grace Berry, John Binsfeld (Benner family friend), Miriam & Paula Bistany (Grappone family friend), John Bliesernick (Vorstadt family friend), Laura Brandt (Thomas family friend), Janet Brazel (Terry Miccio's relative), Liam Broggy, Arthur Brown (Dean's father), Glen Cacchioli, Connie Campbell (Patty Larson's sister in law), Brad Carbone & family (R. Benson family friend), Lynn Carlson, Jennifer Carrieri, Bill Carroll (Rose Minnick's friend), Christina (Margareta Garcia's relative), Olga Colandro (Olsen family friend), Amanda Conca (Grappone family friend),

Gisela Conforti, Maya Contreras & family (Alice Vorstadt's relatives), Frank Costeira (Martha Peterson's friend), David Cronin, Chris Cucci, Frank Dell'Aquila (GSL teacher Diane Kideris's father), Claudia DeMauro, John, Amanda & Baby Ivan Dexter, Georgeann Diblasi (Sue Wakefield's relative), Gregory Diehl (Dorothy Turaukas's son), Romia Dimor (Wenger family friend), Steven Dux (Irma Carlson's nephew), Dilliana Edwards, Becky Ernst (Paul Wenger's cousin), Judy Esposito (Karen Faucera's friend), Richard Faithfull (Grappone family friends), Eric Faret, Krysta Minnick Fazio, Ricky Fedyk (Sue Wakefield's friend), Pat Fiedler, Charlene Fiore (Olsen family friend), Marcelle Figlo, Arlene Fraraccio (George Hirn's sister), Norma Gattulli (Kathy Prinz's friend), Natalia Garrick (Cronin family friend), Jackie Gentner, Lilah & Jim Gillett (Kathy Prinz's friends), Ray Gorka, Katelyn Gregorie (Grappone family friend), Carl & Helen Gscheidle, Jane Guido (Cathie Olsen's friend), Kenneth Hall (Ronn's brother), Sean Harrison (Lorch family friend), Ellen Harvey (Terry Miccio's friend), Diane Helmers, Joe Hutchinson (Sue Carentz's student), Imari (Karen Faucera's friend), Michelle Jackowdik (Annmarie Brown's relative), Ben Jankowski, Jimi



(Chrissi Canino's relative), Bill Johnson (Kitty Hall's relative), Louis Johnson (Bob's father), Daniel Johnson, Robin Kane (Rose Minnick's relative), Susie Klemm (Bruno family), Evelyn & Niko Kontonis & their family, Mary Jane Krenkel (Terry Miccio's aunt), Kenneth Lane, Martha Langjahr, Pastor Pat Large, Carol Larson (Bob Rickmeyer's sister), Lois Lengenfelder, Charles & Michael Leva (Angel Lorch's uncle & father), Rolando Larrondo (Jennifer Stoddart's relative) Angel, Christopher & Marie Lorch, Ron Lupi (Meyer family friend), Roger Luedtke (Sue Devine's brother in law), Kim

Request

Maca (Kathy Prinz's friend), Joe Marino (Annmarie Brown's relative), Vanessa Masih (Lisa Cacchioli's student's sister), John Mark, Matt Massucci & his family (Vollono family friend), Diane Matales (Lilli Schulz's friend), Steve McCoy (Sue Wakefield's friend), Pastor Fred McElderry, Dorothy McGowan, Patti McSkane (Kathy Prinz's friend), Annette Meitzner (Roy Steinhilber's friend), Teddy Moore (Miccio family friend), Maryellen Moyse, Nancy Michaelis (Dawn Zacchino's mother), Karen Murphy (Donna Hickey's friend), Richard Murphy, Christopher Nickels, Ann Ocker, Jennifer Olsen, Meghan Ortega (Lisa Olsen's niece), Eric Page (Karen Faucera's friend), Joe Pecora, Diana Petrielo (Terry Miccio's friend), Jessica Phillip (GSL School Mom), Kathleen Power (our landscaper's wife), Mark Prowatzke (Danny Wenger's father in law), Gregory Rajan (GSL Little Lamb), Teresa Ratkowski, Natalie Roberts (Naomi Hulver's friend), Justin Rogers (Karin Kienle's nephew), Stephanie Rogers (Ferrara family friend). Mackenzie Ruff, Barbara Russo (Susan Ferraro's friend), Elena Savage (Jeff & Susan Wakefield's granddaughter), Glenn Schabel, Francisco Rivera Serrano (Mason family friend), Bill Schulz (JoAnn Schulz-Dellacona's son), Craig Schumacker (Elaine Mark's relative), Danna Sgambati, Lisa Shaffer (Kathy Prinz's friend), Sean & his family, Diane Sicca (Debbie Garcia's sister), Jennifer Sorenson (Cathy Vollono's friend), Judy Stal (Christine Adolphus's daughter), Frank Staiano (Lorraine Duffy's friend), Anthony Stanisci (Katrina Lindenfeld's father) Ken Steffens, Ed Strauhs, Carter Suozzi, (Kevin Ocker's Raymond Tarnok (Pat Fiedler's nephew), Debbie Tassi (Denise Donitz's sister), Paul Thompson colleague's grandson), Baby (Lisa Olsen's relative) the Thomas Family, Sheryl Tubiolo (Karen Faucera's friend), Nancy Tucker, Barbara Tung (Karen Faucera's friend), Ursula, Kathy Van Driessche, Lisa Van Tress (Donna Hickey's fiend), Ken & Kevin Vorstadt, Jeff Wakefield, Karen Weber (Maisch relative), Clifton Weed (Fiedler family friend), Marilyn Weyant (Maisch family friend), Brother George Zenle (Wenger family friend), Julia, Pat & Josie and Jennifer & Nicole (Genevieve's Helping Hands).



THOSE WHO GRIEVE: The family and friends of Ray Battaglia, the Olsen family and the family & friends of Lisa's Grandmother Edith Grosh.



THOSE IN SERVICE: CPT Hector Ruben Alejandro, USMC, (Lori Mason's friend), Matthew Beers (Army) at Ft. Lennard Wood, MO, Keith & Kyle Calderone (Army), SGT Sean Hassett (Lori Mason's cousin), CPTs Brian & Daniel McGrath (Grappone family friend), MAJ Paul Rickmeyer, Captain Robert Saueracker, Corporal Nicholas Ventrelli-O'Connell (Patty Larson's family friend).

### Lutheran Counseling hope and healing Center

## **UPDATE FOR FEBRUARY 2018**

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

#### **AN ALL-OR-NOTHING MARRIAGE ? \***

By Rev. Dr. Ronald Lehenbauer, LCC Pastoral Therapist

Do we expect more from marriage today than our parents or grandparents did? Our culture is rapidly changing, and marriage is changing with it. In our times marriage is no longer a precondition for becoming a grownup, getting it on, ensuring economic security, or having kids.

In this 21<sup>st</sup> century spouses seem to want more from their partners and more from marriage. They seek partners who will bring out their best, most authentic selves, who can spot potential in their mate, and find (Michelangelo-like) the beautiful sculpture within the block of stone.

We still want the basic benefits of couplehood. We still want security. We still want a passionate

lover. We still want good parenting skills. Those come standard. We continue to view our marriage as a central locus of love and passion, and we continue to view our home as a safe haven in a heartless world. But, in addition, we also need someone who promotes self-expression and personal selfactualization.

The history of marriage is like the ascent up a Maslow-like mountain of needs and desires. At base camp are economic and physical safety. Higher up the mountain, it takes a different kind of effort to make a marriage work. We are expected to be each other's coach, therapist, and champion, while also being vulnerable, familiar, and playful.

A good marriage relationship with trust and commitment

provides not only a safe-haven, characterized by intimacy, understanding and differentiated communication. Marriage is also about creating shared meaning, honoring one another's life's journey, and helping make each other's dreams and aspirations come true. (*Cf. John Gottman's "Sound Marital House."*) We need to figure out both what our partner needs at any given point and how we, with our own challenges and quirks, might be able to provide it.

The climb to the top of this marriage mountain may seem difficult, but the rewards are considerable, placing in reach a whole new level of intimate connection, unity, and joy.

There's no magic formula for traveling up this mountain together. But some primary gifts and behaviors are: differentiated dialogue, being responsive to each other's emotional bids, having fun together, giving your partner the benefit of the doubt with positive sentiment override, occasionally lower-ing your expectations for what your partner can do for you, and carving out some time just for each other.

This "new" idea of marriage, I believe, was the original vision for marriage by our Creator--God. And because we are imperfect human partners, there will be missteps, failures, and disappointments along the path up the mountain, with frequent need for forgiveness, compassion, and grace. Therefore, we will be happier in our marriages if we can gracefully accept that it's not all-or-nothing.



<sup>\*</sup> Dr. Ron Lehenbauer, a couple therapist at the Lutheran Counseling Center, has extensively based this article on Belinda Luscombe, "Why marriage is harder than ever – and maybe better too," <u>Time</u> (9/25/17, p.25), reviewing Eli Finkel's book, <u>The All-or-Nothing Marriage</u>; and using John Gottman, "The Sound Marital House," The Gottman Institute, 2001.