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New York Synod
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GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS IN GOD'S SERVICE

FEBRUARY 2022

Who Says You Can't Go Home Again?

Is the Holy Spirit spinning records on our radio stations? Have you ever heard a song come over the airwaves with a message you need to hear at a particular moment?

Recently, as I was driving, a duet that climbed the Billboard charts back in 2006 streamed across my vehicle's sound system. With the prayers and support of Good Shepherd, I was attending seminary the year that recording was a hit. My recent listening to that song performed by Jon Bon Jovi and Jennifer Nettles asks a question that heavily weighed on my mind, "Who Says You Can't Go Home Again?" Based on the Holy Spirit's call, I guess I can!

ELCA Metropolitan New York Synod Bishop Paul Egensteiner, with the consent of Good Shepherd's congregation council, has appointed me to return home to our congregation to serve as Interim Pastor during this time of transition. Accordingly, my pastorate at the Church of Our Saviour, Manhasset, has concluded, and my ministry with you formally begins on February 1st.

An interim pastor's role is to preach and teach the Word of God, minister the Sacraments, provide pastoral care, and work together with the congregation's Transition Team to ensure a productive interim ministry experience in preparation for the arrival of a new pastor. The synod estimates the timeline for the process to average between 12-18 months. I am excited to fulfill this role with you and our congregation's leadership team.

Good Shepherd is the source of my faith and my spiritual foundation. It is the place where I profoundly experience the presence of Our Lord. Before entering ordained ministry, I was a life-long member of Good Shepherd. This church is where I was baptized, confirmed, married, and ordained. My life in the parish's ministry included participating in various ministry roles, including serving as a congregation council member, assistant minister, lector, usher, Sunday School teacher, Confirmation instructor, Bible Study leader, and parish life committee chair. Additionally, as a former student of our parochial school, I served as a longtime member of our School Board. My daughters Victoria and Kerri also attended our school and church.

One of the integral roles of an interim pastor is to assist the Transition Team review a congregation's history, culture, and dynamics in assessing its impact on the future mission of the faith community. I believe my background provides a unique opportunity to offer particular input. The five previous senior pastors – Rev. John C. Hinsch, Rev. Christopher George Hoyer, Rev. Thomas S. Peterson, Rev. Philip F. Kunder, and Rev. Eric O. Olsen – were *my* pastors and officiated or participated in essential faith milestones in my life. In addition, our former assistant pastors - Rev. Dwayne H. Mau, Rev. Dr. Lamontte M. Luker, Rev. Dr. Toby L. Tobias, Rev. Scott Paradise, and Rev. Nicholas Sollom – also guided me and worked alongside me in the ministry field. Finally, our past interim pastors - Rev. John A. Jurik, Rev. Dr. Gerard R. Gaeta, and Rev. Dianne Loufman - were faith leaders during my time at Good Shepherd and remain trusted colleagues, friends, and role models for me in the role I am now to provide for you. I trust my experience with these exemplary faith leaders, each possessing different styles and talents, will assist us in praying and assessing the leadership skills desired for the future.

I thank the Lord for the gracious "welcome home" reception from my Good Shepherd Family. The next time I hear Jon Bon Jovi and Jennifer Nettles singing that question, "Who says you can't go home again?" I may scream at the radio, "not Good Shepherd!"

Blessings,

Pastor Marc



Our mission is to provide a Christ-centered environment in which we guide our children socially, spiritually, intellectually, and physically.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Dear Family & Friends of Good Shepherd:

As I reflect back between the holidays and the new year, I think about how much children learn from their surroundings. Children are like sponges; they absorb what they see, hear, and touch. What are we teaching our children today? Are we teaching them about love, respect and faith? Children learn through socialization and whom they are in contact with day to day. They are influenced by their caregivers, teachers and their families.

Good Shepherd strives to create a Christian-centered environment where children feel safe, stimulated, and cared for. All of our educators encourage children to be independent, have positive-self-image, have genuine concerns for others, while they prepare them with academic readiness towards the common core standards.

In February we will be participating in Random Acts of Kindness and Share the Warmth Blanket Drive. This is a wonderful opportunity to teach our students that kindness, generosity, and love for one another should always be a part of daily lives.

Life is so precious and fragile. Please remember to be kind to one another and respect each other's values and opinions.

"In a world where you can be anything be Kind"

Warmest regards,

Vanessa Bigam

Vanessa Bigam
School Director

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Dear Members of Good Shepherd,

February is going to be an exciting month for us as we welcome Pastor Marc Herbst as our interim minister. Pastor Herbst comes to us with a wonderful and varied experience as a minister plus a rich history with Good Shepherd having grown up as a member of our congregation. I believe Pastor Herbst comes to us uniquely qualified to lead through this next phase of our journey as we assess our needs and calling our next minister. I know Pastor Herbst is looking forward to working with our school and church staff as well as our congregational leaders. I'm hoping all our members and staff get to know Pastor Herbst during his next few months.

I think Pastor Herbst will offer our congregation stability as we regroup to meet the challenges created by Covid and most recently by the Omicron variant. I believe we all yearn for the "Good Old Days" when we could be more of a presence to each other and the community at large. We are indeed blessed to welcome Pastor Herbst back to Good Shepherd along with his legacy here coupled with his educational credentials and varied experiences as a minister of the ELCA. Pastor Herbst will be a wonderful addition to our church family. I am hoping we can all work along side Pastor Herbst as we move forward in our mission of "Loving, Living, and Sharing Christ."

I think 2022 is going to be a pivotal year for Good Shepherd. I am looking forward to joining with all of you as we work together to fully realize our potential as a congregation.

Blessings,

Ellen Benson

Ellen Benson
Church Council President

AROUND GOOD SHEPHERD...

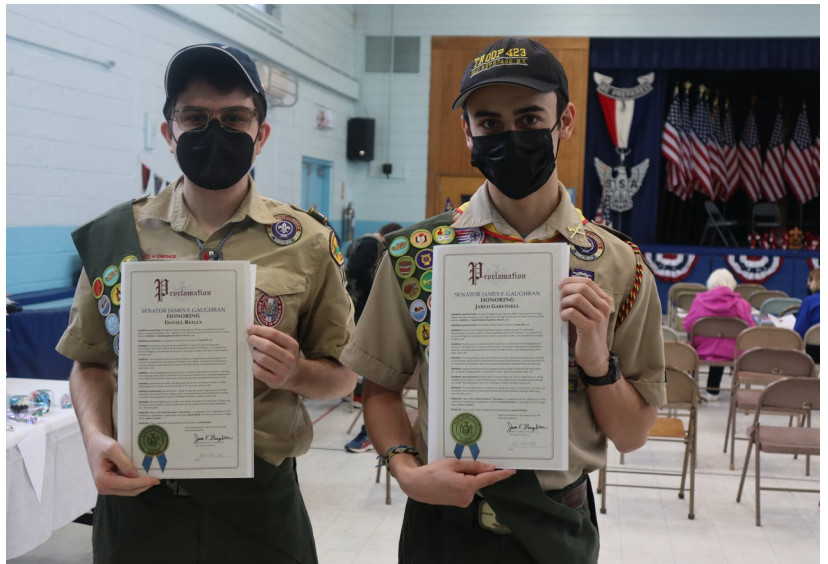


Interim Pastor Marc Herbst received 30 Covid home test kits from Legislator Arnold Drucker's Assistant, Peter Brown. They are available through the Church Office on a first-come-first-served basis. Please contact Maureen if you'd like one.



Genevieve's Helping Hands would like to thank everyone at Good Shepherd and Good Shepherd School for contributing Christmas cards to our "Sending Joy Holiday Card Campaign". You helped make it a huge success! Every mother and care-taker member of their families received a card, also the mothers of Beacon Bragg, a military moms with breast cancer group, that we've been assisting.

Thanks to everyone's generosity, we were able to give cards to Pastor Overvold, who is head of Chaplains at Memorial Sloan Kettering. His Chaplains distributed the cards to breast cancer patients there, and he said they brought a lot of joy. We're planning on doing this again next year. Please watch for it in November. Thanks again!



Congratulations,
Troop 423 Eagle Scouts
Daniel Reilly & Jared Garfinkel

FEELING THE LOVE OF OUR SAINTLY "SEW"ERS!



August 30, 2021

Dear Knit Your Bit Volunteer,

Fifteen years ago, The National World War II Museum kicked-off one of its longest running programs that honor our veterans through the Knit Your Bit program inspired by the national effort during WWII to provide our servicemen and women knitted goods from home, such as scarves, sweaters and socks, etc. that were needed while serving abroad and provided a taste and warmth of home.

Each year, the Museum receives thousands of scarves that we then distribute to veterans at veteran centers, VA hospitals, and at Museum commemoration ceremonies. Knit Your Bit volunteers exceed well over 5,000 and represent all 50 states, including international contributors!

To honor you and your contributions to Knit Your Bit, we are including a commemorative pin to celebrate the 15th anniversary of this program and its impact on the veteran community. Whether you have knit one scarf or hundreds, each has made a difference to the veteran who received them. Thank you so much for your continued support of Knit Your Bit and we hope that you will continue to engage with the program and The National World War II Museum!

All the best,

Abbie Edens

Abbie Edens
Director of Education



Dick Carr 1/23

Kimberly Allan ~ 2/27
 Patricia Andre ~ 2/11
 Christine Azzaretto ~ 2/9
 Nicholas Balos ~ 2/28
 Austin Bao ~ 2/02/17
 Martha Berardino ~ 2/27
 Shawn Bigam ~ 2/3
 William Bodeker ~ 2/1
 RJ Bridgwood ~ 2/2
 Kyle Bristol ~ 2/6
 Alicia Carlson ~ 2/26
 Liz Carr ~ 2/15
 Julianna Curry ~ 2/11
 Alexis DiSapio ~ 2/15
 Calista DiSapio ~ 2/20
 August Dondero ~ 2/5
 Andrew Eoanidis ~ 2/10
 Jack Glennon ~ 2/23/18

Sabrina Greig ~ 2/28
 Brianna Hansen ~ 2/27
 Robert Johnson ~ 2/11
 Loré Kachianos ~ 2/22
 Piper Kelly-Eberle ~ 2/12
 Dillon Kwart ~ 2/16
 Peter LaBarbera ~ 2/14
 Phyllis Langone ~ 2/26
 Charlotte LeBlond ~ 2/4
 Chiara Lindenfeld ~ 2/3
 Nancy Long ~ 2/28
 Christopher Luo ~ 2/14
 Matthew Marlin ~ 2/22
 Connor Masi ~ 2/18
 Mila Masino ~ 2/19
 Lillianna Mason ~ 2/20
 Michael Masone ~ 2/5
 Deval Mody ~ 2/1

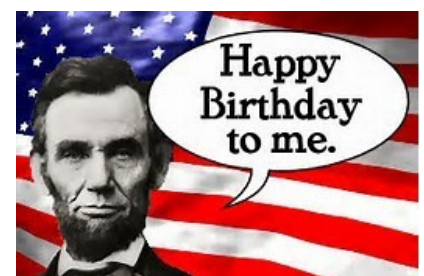
Sofia Mulada ~ 2/16
 Nora Ocker ~ 2/14
 Spencer Patterson ~ 2/6
 Skylar Pekarek ~ 2/4
 Ann Roerden ~ 2/11
 Josef Saueracker ~ 2/1
 Veronica Savarese ~ 2/10
 Patricia Schmidt ~ 2/2
 Lauren Sieloff ~ 2/3
 Marcus Ubertaini-Pitts ~ 2/11
 Kimberly Whitenack ~ 2/1
 Harvey Wu ~ 2/2
 Annabelle Xu ~ 2/3



Fred & Loretta Ruff ~ 62 Years on 2/6

Kimberly & Christopher Vargas ~ 6 Years on 2/20

Veronica & Paul Vasold ~ 2 years on 2/17





REQUESTS FOR PRAYER

John Aarnio (Elisa Carr's father), Linda Allan Petersen's friend), Ariana (Susan Ferraro's friend), Balos, Alex, Derek & Stanley Bartkow, Vasilius Bayerkohler, Marilyn Benner, Mary Bennett Pe-Berardino, Martha & Tom Berardino, Grace Berry, Bird, Ellen Bird, Kathy Blewett, Emily Brandi Laura Brandt (Thomas family friend), Janet Brazel Wenger's friend), Declan Broggy, John Brooks, Wenger's friend), Mary Beth Cammarata & family, Campion (Emmy Quartraro's friend), Patricia Can-Alison Carey, Bill Carroll (Rose Minnick's friend), the Comisso family (Nancy Long's friends), Maya Contreras & family (Alice Vorstadt's relatives), Frank Costeira (Martha Peterson's friend), Ellen Cote, Lorraine Crosby, Kevin Cummins (Doug Petersen's friend), Teresa Decker (Maisch family friend) Awilda Delgado (Guillermina Santos's niece), Claudia DeMauro, Deacon Roberta Detmers (Marge Wenger's friend), Georgeann Diblasi (Sue Wakefield's relative), Gregory Diehl (Dorothy Turaukas's son), Aidan Duver (Barbara Nelson's friend), Lorraine Duffy, Steven Dux (Irma Carlson's nephew), Theresa Eby (Mary Oliveto's relative), Dilliana Edwards, Jeff Eisele, Timothy Evans, Francine Fakler (Ed Indellicati's mother-in-law), Ricky Fedyk (Sue Wakefield's friend), Susan, Alice & Anthony Ferraro, Pat Fiedler, Marcelle Figlo, Danny Fink, Andrew Gai (Bonnie's son), Maria Garrett & the Hall family, Jackie Gentner, Gloria & Bob, Ray Gorka, Helen Gscheidle, Kenneth Hall (Ronn's brother), Sean Harrison (Lorch family friend), Ellen Harvey (Terry Miccio's friend), Nicky Hassett (Donna Hickey's friend), Diane Helmers, Katherine Hill, George Hirn, Jessica, Jim & Cheryl Hendricks (Chrissi Canino's relative), Jeff Innis (Maureen Cooke's friend), the Jachowdik family (Dean & Annmarie Brown's daughter), Ann Jaffe (Lorraine Duffy's friend), Yuna Jin, Joanna (Meridith Moran's friend), Ginger Johnson (Sue Devine's friend), Mari Jordan (Denise & Patrice's friend), Lisa Katz (Marge Wenger), Arlene Keller (Cacchioli family friend), Susie Klemm (Bruno family), Evelyn & Niko Kontonis & their family, Chief Robert Kloepfer, Kurt Langjahr, Angie LaBarbera, John LoBosco, Heather Rose Landry, Pastor Pat Large, Carol Larson (Bob Rickmeyer's sister), Lauren & Baby Emerson, Barbara LaValle (Sue Devine's friend), Charles & Michael Leva (Angel Lorch's uncle & father), Lila (Lorraine Duffy's friend), Lindsay (Marc Ferraro's friend), Alfia Livaccari (Joan Vanecek's friend), Madeline LoCuercio (Patrice Sessa's friend), Angel, Phil, Christopher & Marie Lorch, the Love & McCartin families (Ellen Benson's friends), Lucia (Bonnie McGowan's friend), Ronda Luna (Guillermina Santos's brother), Viena Ludewig, Roger Luedtke (Sue Devine's brother in law), Ron Lupi (Meyer family friend), Ava Machuka & family (Domenick Tuozzo's great granddaughter), James Madden, Ron Maisch, Jean Mason, Gail McCoy (Susan Wakefield's friend), Jake McCreedy (Liz & Dick Carr's Grandson), Reverend James McDaniels (Naomi Hulver's friend), Patricia McGee (Joan Vanecek's friend), Joseph McKie (Jame Lowe's Brother in Law), Mindy & her family (DeMauro family friend), Christine Moeller (Brittany Thomas-Wanko's friend), Dorothy Morris (Lorraine Duffy's friend), Peter & Al (Roger Mueller's friends), Richard Murphy (Mary Ann's son), Nicholas (Sue Ferraro's nephew), Noel (Bonnie McGowan's friend), Ursula Nouza (Huntington Hills), Dr. Mary O'Meara, Meghan, Lori Ortega, Jaime & Kathy Pagan, Martha Peterson, Thomas D. Peterson (Gisela Conforti's cousin), Charlie Racz (Wenger family friend), Teresa Ratkowski, Aiden Rausch, Johanna Richman (Joe Berardino's friend), Bob Rickmeyer, Phyllis Rocco (Maureen Cooke's friend), Justin Rogers (Karin Kienle's nephew), Stephanie Rogers (Ferrara family friend), Selma Rosen (Lorraine Duffy's friend), Barbara Russo (Susan Ferraro's friend), George Saueracker, Nicole & Elena Savage (Jeff & Susan Wakefield's daughter & granddaughter), Betty Ann Scarola (Doug Petersen's friend), Bill Schulz (JoAnn's son), JoAnn Schulz-Dellacona, Craig Schumacker (Elaine Mark's relative), Lorna Seeger (Sue Devine's friend), Patrice Sessa, Danna Sgambati, Kenny Skrypek (McGowan family friend), Diane Sicca (Debbie Garcia's sister), Arlene Simonson (John Bird's sister), Arthur Sounia, Rachael Staiano (Lorraine Duffy's friend), Scott Stedman (Yvonne Maddiona's brother in law), Raymond Tarnok (Pat Fiedler's nephew), Dr. John Stroup (Doug Petersen's friend), Debbie Tassi (Denise Donitz's sister), Dorothy Turaukas, Jerry Tivolott (Terry Miccio's relative), Richie Taylor (Ann Rickmeyer's friend), Melanie Thicks (Marilyn Benner's niece), Brittany Thomas, the Thomas family, Tori & family (Karen Faucera's friend), Nancy Tucker, Barbara Tung, Dorothy Turaukas, Kathy Van Driessche, Mary Vassallo (Chandra Jorree's friend), Nicole Virgil (Naomi Hulver's friend), Alice Vorstadt, Ralph Wahl (Alice Vorstadt's relative), Jeff Wakefield, Ed Waldron, Samantha Wegner (Patricia Cannata's relative), Warren Weigert, Anneliese Wenger, Daniel Wenger, Derek Zacchino, Alan Zeller (James Lowe's colleague), Jennifer & Mary Alice (Genevieve's Helping Hands).

FOR THOSE WHO ARE GREIVING: The family & friends of Emile Castillo, Judy Hinsch & Madison Milo

FOR THOSE IN SERVICE: Matthew Beers (Army), Keith & Kyle Calderone (Army), Lt. Col. Thomas Ludwig (Army), Lt. Col. Paul Rickmeyer, Captain Robert Saueracker & Col. Philip Sounia



UPDATE FOR FEBRUARY 2022

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

"FEAR NOT": FROM BONDAGE TO FREEDOM

By Molly W. Blancke, MPA, Executive Director

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10

There are many things we naturally fear in life—losing someone we love, being diagnosed with a terminal illness, being hurt in an accident, disasters, divorce, or even dying. To not be aware of the reality of these possibilities is to live in denial. These are *healthy* fears and can cause us to react in ways to save our marriage, take care of ourselves or protect our loved ones or property. Healthy fears can literally save our lives.

More prevalent and damaging, however, is the type of fear that holds us in bondage. *Unhealthy* fears keep us from living a full and normal life. They include:

- fear of failure as shown in a refusal to try anything new
- unreasonable fear of the loss of a loved one resulting in attempts to control that person's every behavior, demanding accountabilities for every hour spent apart
- fear of financial ruin, causing us to hoard our money and possessions, not giving to those in need or even to those we love
- fear of emotional pain, leading to alcohol or drug abuse in an effort to 'numb' the hurt
- fear of people who are different than ourselves, leading to prejudice and even hatred in an effort to maintain feelings of superiority over them
- extreme fear of numerous bad outcomes or disasters that "might happen", leading to the inability to enjoy life in the present

With today's COVID numbers, political arguments, and 'doom and gloom' news stories blasting constantly from the media, it is easy to understand how a normal, healthy fear can evolve into one that keeps us in constant bondage, resulting in nagging mental ruminations and emotional paralysis. In order to 'not go there', we must ask ourselves what is at the HEART of all the constant anxieties, the REAL FEAR behind it all—whether it is the fear of being alone, fear of losing control, or even fear of not being loved. Because we tend to react to fear subconsciously, taking the time to honestly analyze our fear can be a first step to breaking its power in our lives.

Next, take an action to better manage the fear. Maybe it means adhering to a healthier diet or setting up date nights with your spouse. It may mean consciously replacing negative thoughts with positive ones, or it may mean seeking counseling to help deal with controlling anxieties that we can't get rid of on our own.

The word 'fear' is included over 900 times in the Bible, more often in the command, "Fear not". Obviously, our generation is not the first to be consumed with fears. However, none of our fears seem as powerful when viewed in light of God's promise in Romans 8:38-39 that "*nothing...in creation, present or future, can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord*".

Trusting God's promise to never leave us and choosing to live our lives with total trust in Him is the ultimate answer to fear, albeit difficult to practice. LCC counselors are here to help you put unhealthy fear in perspective and get closer to this goal.

Please visit our website at: www.lccny.org for more information. For a counseling appointment, call LCC at 1-800-317-1173. All sessions are virtual.



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