



# Happenings at NLC

March 2019

Monthly Newsletter

“With the birth of Jesus in our hearts,  
we carry light and love to the world.”

Worship Services 8:30am & 11am

Reverend Giuseppe Mattei

**Wednesday, March 6:**

**6:30PM—Ash Wednesday Service**



**Wednesday, March 13, 20, 27:**

**5:00PM—Lenten Soup & Sandwich (Winemiller)**

**5:45PM—Lenten Service**



**Sunday, March 10:**

**International Women’s Day Service**

**8:30AM and 11:00AM**

## Church Events

March 2—Life Line Screening  
March 14—Nutrition in our Golden Years  
March 14—Brookridge Clubhouse Outing  
March 18—Council Meeting

Please visit our website  
at [www.nlcww.org](http://www.nlcww.org) to  
view the NLC calendar,  
submit requests for  
dates/events, download  
sermons, among other  
things.



## *LETTER FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT*

Last month, I wrote to let you know that the Congregation Council and other ministry leaders were to gather during a weekend retreat to think about where we are as a church and where we would like to see our church in the future. On February 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> we did just that. The Council spent some time together on Friday evening and Saturday morning to get to know one another and to review church documents. We gained a better understanding of our roles and responsibilities and we learned that our Policy and Procedure Manual is sadly outdated. The Council has agreed to work together and gather some congregants to help us review and revise this manual. We will be starting with a small group to look at our Wedding, Funeral, and Facility Use policies. We will be prioritizing several more policies that need to be updated and work through the manual to ensure it meets our current needs.

On Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, a larger group, including 14 ministry leaders and the Council, was led by Scott Henkel to review our Mission Statement and develop ideas for how our church could make the statement real and relevant in our community. We reflected on a personal view of the Mission Statement and then broke into groups for the 4 Ministry Areas and brainstormed what it meant from the lens of our ministries. We gathered together to share ideas from the ministry areas and then broke into groups to develop some potential actions that would help our church grow. The action teams presented ideas for Worship, Communications, and Outreach through a Thrift Store.

Our ideas are just that – ideas! Council is discussing these ideas at our February meeting and will attempt to prioritize them and develop plans to move forward. We will recommend processes for working with various ministries within our church to determine if and how we could implement some new approaches. We may not implement everything, but we also don't want to ignore ideas just because "we don't do things that way." We would ask that we all talk honestly about pros and cons; and look at the cons to see if there are ways to overcome them. Let's think outside the box, explore new ideas, and try some new things, which maybe could allow us to experience the movement of the Holy Spirit in our midst. Perhaps there are blessings around the corner waiting for us to discover them!

In Christian love,

*Ed Lewis*

# SPIRITUAL LIFE

**THIS LENT**, our congregation is invited to join with fellow Lutherans to give thanks for God's many blessings and to give during the **ELCA World Hunger 40 Days of Giving Campaign**. The world provides enough food for all, but more than 800 million people around the world face chronic hunger. Almost half the world — over three billion people — live on less than \$2.50 a day. During the 40 days of Lent, let's set aside \$2.00/day or more for the hungry. Bring your total donations to the altar on Maundy Thursday, April 18 during the 6:30PM worship service. Make your check payable to Nativity for a record of your giving and write "40 Days of Giving" in the memo line.

## **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE — Wednesday, March 6, 2019—6:30PM**

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent and marks a period of intentional prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It is preceded by Shrove Tuesday and lasts about six weeks until Easter. Ash Wednesday derives its name from the ancient Jewish



Lent Begins  
Ash Wednesday

practice of placing ashes on one's head or to sit in ashes to signify repentance (for ex. Esther 4; Job 42; Jer 6). Lutherans and other Christians come to a special service on Ash Wednesday to receive ashes on their foreheads as a sign of repentance and hear the words "Repent, and believe in the Gospel" or "remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" proclaimed to them. The ashes may be prepared by burning palm leaves from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebrations.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 20, 27—Lenten Soup and Sandwich—5:00PM** Each week the various committees/groups at Nativity will host Soup & Sandwich Suppers prior to the Wednesday Lenten services. It will be held in Winemiller Hall and everyone is welcome. The sign-up list for the committees/groups that are hosting is on the kiosk in the narthex. We are always looking for people to help with the Lenten Suppers. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Lilo Horeis at 352-666-7584 or Evelyn Galli at 352-684-2261.

### **WEDNESDAY SERVICES DURING LENT**

**MARCH 13, 20, 27 Lent Services will be held at 5:45PM.** Prior to the service, please join us for “Soup & Sandwiches” in Winemiller Hall from 5-5:30PM.

### **SOUL SEEKERS - Monday, March 11, 2019 — 7:00PM**

This group is designed to support and encourage our relationships with God as we face the challenges and joys together. This group is open to all...anyone who is seeking and has a willingness to explore their relationship with God is welcome! Questions please contact Michelle Mehan-Conklin at 727-267-1047 or email at shelltbf@hotmail.com.

### **ALTAR GUILD – March 20, 2019 – 10:00AM**

We invite anyone (male or female) to attend one of our meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10:00AM (to find out what we do and how we do it). If you have any questions you would like answered before that please, call **Janet DeVico at 352-597-0150.**



# Easter Lilies



We will be accepting orders for Easter Lilies  
beginning Sunday March 31st.

These Lilies will adorn our sanctuary April 21st

Easter Sunday's

Celebration of our risen Lord.

Following the 11am service, you may take  
your lily home to enjoy.



## **MIDDAY PRAYER - Weekdays at 12:30PM**

The Midday Prayer is a brief break during the day to find rest and renewal in prayer. All are welcome. People may gather for a few moments together at **12:30PM every day** and then go about the rest of their day or if they would like,

**ALTAR FLOWERS**—If you would like to purchase flowers for the altar in honor or memory of a loved one or event, please sign up in the Narthex. For those people who have purchased bouquets, the Altar Guild will have them ready for you to pick up after the 11 o'clock service. **PLEASE, do not** remove flowers from the altar. Members from the Altar Guild will remove them for you.

**NLC'S SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE** - Every service is easily accessible from Nativity's website. **ALSO**, Sunday night at 6pm, tune in to WZEU-FM 102.9 on your radio for a rebroadcast of our previous weeks' Sunday Service. If you are Interested in sponsoring one of the services broadcast on WZEU in memory or honor of someone, cost is \$25 and place your donation in a green envelope and mark it WZEU and place in the offering plate.

# OUTREACH

## **MISSION OF THE MONTH - GOLDEN RAINBOW RANCH**

Golden Rainbow Ranch is a non-profit organization that is located on a 10 acre farm in Brooksville, which was started by two retired teachers. The purpose of the farm is to provide children an opportunity to interact with farm animals, and discover nature in a peaceful setting. The children feed and brush the animals and look for chicken and duck eggs. They can explore nature up close using a microscope to see insects, leaves, feathers, plants and other items they might find interesting. Arts and crafts are also included in the educational experience. Golden Rainbow Ranch has provided wonderful volunteer opportunities for many people in Hernando County, including public school students. At a suggested donation of \$10-\$20 per child, they continue to work with special disabled children, host birthday parties, and field trips, for any organization, school or family. Ali and her husband David could really use our financial support to provide the needs necessary to support there mission outreach for all the children. If you wish to help, please use a green pew envelope and indicate Golden Rainbow Ranch, but make your check payable to Nativity Lutheran Church. OR here is a wish list of items: plastic covers for 8 ft. rectangular tables; black sharpies, thin or thick; dry cat food; wet single serving cat food; poultry waterers and feeders; any art and craft supplies; paper towels; used or new tennis balls for dogs and kids to play with; paper plates; styrofoam plates; 1 inch binders with pockets; and any amount gift cards to Lowes; \$25 gift card to Amazon or Visa.

For questions, please call Lilo Horeis (352) 666-7584.

**HAITI NEWS - Closure of International Village of Hope, Inc. Its History and Results with Help from Nativity 1998-2018.** Constructed Church/school buildings-Marechal. Constructed school building/classrooms-HOS. Employed 38 Haitian staff persons. Sponsored 66 children. Total students who learned an education-6,585. Total hot meals for children, staff, parents-100,000. Drilled one well-Marechal. Connected HOS school to a water line. Built kitchen/dining facility-Marechal. Built outhouse facility at both schools. Started annual Christmas meal. Started VBS-350 children attending. Supported an orphanage 10-20 children. Sent 2 containers filled with all kinds of building material plus generators. Containers that were to be converted for classrooms or storage areas.

**THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS:** If you are a Thrivent Financial member, there is a good chance you get Thrivent Choice Dollars allocated every year for you to donate to a charity of your choice. This is charitable grant money Thrivent Financial puts aside on your behalf based on the monies you have invested or paid into Thrivent Financial. Many people are unaware of these monies that exist for them. Are you one of them? If you are not sure, contact Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836 or check online at [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com). You have until March 31, 2019 to get these dollars allocated for 2018.

**Please take note:** “**THE HOLY GROUNDS**” has a new address: 9035 Wister Lane, Hudson, FL 34669, 727-863-9123.

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Discipleship)

**BIBLE STUDY – Sunday, March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31, 2019 - 9:45AM -10:45AM — Witnesses to the Resurrection**

The class is co-led by Pastor Giuseppe and Deacon Clyde Rosten and will explore the **Witnessing of the Early Church** following the Resurrection of Jesus. This class is a very basic exploration of the Christian Scriptures' references to the Church's self-awareness of being a light to the world. Please, bring your own Bible. If you have any questions, please talk to Pastor Giuseppe.



**BIBLE STUDY – Wednesdays March 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2019 - 7:30PM**

## **“FACING TROUBLES IN THE CHURCH”: A STUDY IN 1 CORINTHIANS**

Each Wednesday evening at 7:30PM in Winemiller Hall, the Rev. Dr. Carlan Helgeson will be leading a Bible Study on Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthian Christians. Come, grow in your understanding of the Scriptures and your faith as we look together at how the first-century church faced its crises and disagreements. No previous experience in Bible study is needed. Invite your friends and neighbors, too! All are welcome.



**CONFIRMATION CLASS — Sunday, March 10 & 24, 2019 - 9:45AM-10:45AM.**

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL — Sunday mornings from 9:45AM-10:45AM. Classes for children 3 and up!**



# COMMUNITY LIFE

## WOMEN OF NATIVITY (WON)

**WOMEN OF NATIVITY BOARD MEETING** - Tuesday, April 9, 2019 - 10AM-12PM in the library. Please save the date!

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY – Sunday, March 10, 2019 - 8:30AM and 11:00AM Services**

Every year on March 8, people around the world commemorate International Women's Day, a day dedicated to celebrating women's achievements throughout history and across nations. On this day, members of the ELCA celebrate by supporting and lifting up the International Women Leaders initiative--one of 10 priorities part of Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA. (ELCA.com). Nativity will celebrate International Women's Day on March 10. We hope you will join us!

**CARDS R US - Wednesday, March 6 & 13, 2019 - 12:30PM-3PM**

The Cards R Us friends will meet Wednesday afternoons, March 6 and 13, 12:30PM-3:00PM to craft greeting cards out of your donated, used greeting cards. Please join us to help with this worthwhile mission and fun craft project. Our up-cycled cards are offered on the kiosks in the Admin Building hallway and the Narthex for a suggested donation of 75 cents. All profits from this project are given to Pastor's Discretionary Fund. You'll find birthday, wedding, thinking of you, thank you, sympathy, get well, and St. Patrick's Day cards. May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your land. May the rain fall soft upon your face until we meet again. May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

**PAINTING CLASS - Wednesday, March 6, 13, 20, 27, 2019 - 10AM-12PM.** We meet every Wednesday in Al Lien Hall. For more information, contact Germaine Major at 352-686-0416 or Penny Morman at 352-888-1829.

**FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE - Saturday, March 9, 2019 -11AM**

On Saturday, March 9, Friendship Circle will enjoy Art in the Park at Tom Varn Park, 306 Darby Lane, Brooksville. This festival includes a juried art show with more than 160 fine arts and craft exhibitors, as well as live entertainment. We will purchase lunch at their food court and enjoy the "Pops in the Park" performance by the Hernando Symphony Orchestra at 1:00PM. Please meet at Nativity at 11:00AM to carpool. Bring lawn chairs, and be prepared to walk the park. Call Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918 for information.

**CRAFTY LADIES - Fridays, 9:00AM -11:00AM**

We are a group of approximately 17 women, who meet every Friday morning at Nativity from 9:00AM until 12:00 noon. These dedicated ladies, iron, cut squares, pin and sew the quilts together, and tie a knot in every square. In 2018 we made 163 quilts in addition to 27 children quilts for families as part of the Angel Tree Prison Ministry, who were mainly made by Judy Dietz. If you were in Church on the 29th of January, you got to see all the quilts placed on the pews, altar railings, and choir chairs. The next day we folded the quilts and placed them into boxes which we then delivered to Shepherd Lutheran Church in Tampa for shipment to Maryland. From there all the quilts will be shipped within the US, and worldwide where most needed. Some quilts go to the Hernando Courthouse for people who graduate from Drug, Mental Health and Alcohol programs, and at times to a homeless person who comes to our Church. We enjoy this project and fellowship we have together. We even take time out for a cup of coffee and a piece of cake. Please come and join us. Questions? Call Jill Helgeson at 352-686-3367.

**MARY JOY CIRCLE—Thursday, March 14, 2019 - 12:30PM.** Our monthly Bible study continues on Thursday, March 14, at 12:30PM in Al Lien Hall. All women of Nativity are invited to join us and we look forward to welcoming you. For more info, please contact Evelyn Lawlor at 352-835-7784.

**DAYS FOR GIRLS — Thursday, March 21, 2019 - 9:00AM-11AM**

Days for Girls is a non-profit organization formed to help girls in developing countries stay in school. Through the Trompeter Fund and Thrivent Financial, WON (Women of Nativity) have been able to participate in this life changing mission. Please consider joining us. For more info, contact Jill Helgeson at 352-686-3367.

### **FELLOWSHIP — PATTEN FROM PATTI**

At this time I would like to thank all of the participants in our recent Hamarama, we received a lot of positive feedback after the evening, so that is rewarding to our committee for all of their hard work. Our season is soon coming to an end, only two more events, here is the next one:

**Thursday March 14th Brookridge Clubhouse.** The Three Jersey Tenors starts at 7:00PM, however it is recommended you arrive at 6:30PM since parking is often a problem.

We will be attending a show at Brookridge to see the Three Jersey Tenors, if you want to see what they are about, look for them on-line. The tickets will be \$15.00, we are getting a deal because we are a group. We will sit together. We are told they feature everything from Opera to Rock. **We will start selling tickets on Sunday February 24th.** After you get to Brookridge, go through the gate and they will guide you to the clubhouse. Our last activity will be in April, a Mystery Dinner, plans still in the works, watch for future details.

***Patti Cotter***

**SARAH CIRCLE** would like to welcome their new leader Peggy Sanders! The WON would like to THANK YOU Peggy, for filling this position. More details to come.

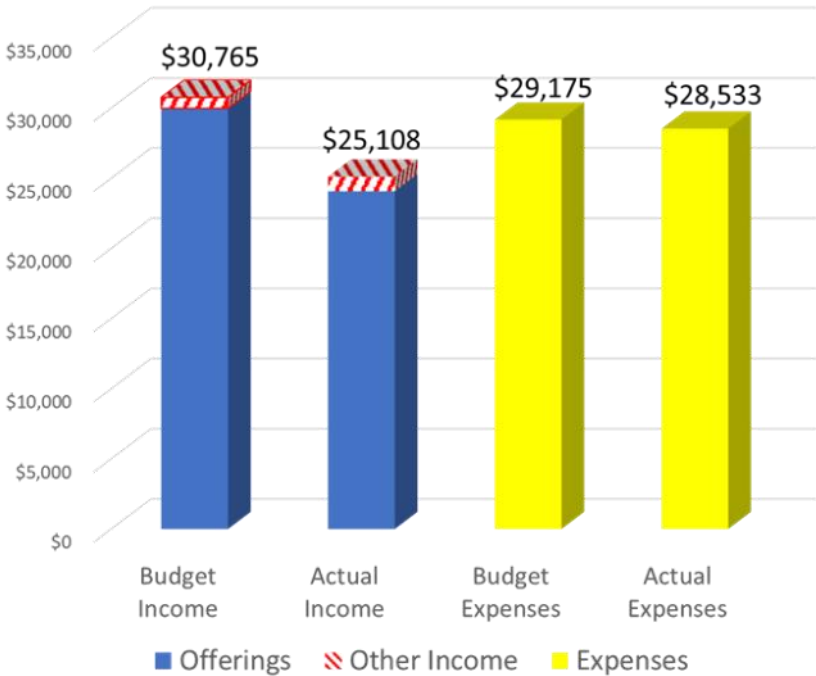
### January 2019 Financial Report from the Financial Secretary

Expenses held very close to our budget. Expected income, based on historical data, was lower than expected by ~18%.

~Jane Henkel, NLC Financial Secretary

Questions: [jane.henkel@nclww.org](mailto:jane.henkel@nclww.org)

January 2019 Income and Expenses



Questions: [jane.henkel@nclww.org](mailto:jane.henkel@nclww.org)

## **MEN'S BREAKFAST – Tuesday, March 19, 2019–8:30AM**

We have a new place where we will be meeting. Please join us at **My Nanny's Restaurant**, 5323 Commercial Way, Spring Hill, for fellowship and breakfast. For more info on this group, please call Jim Christensen at 352-683-9141.



## **HELP WANTED**

**GARDEN HELP WANTED!** We need your help to maintain the gardens at the entrance of the administration building. The garden serves as a bright spot for the church and as a welcome to all. Only light weeding, watering and cleaning of bird baths is needed. A sign up sheet is on the kiosk in the narthex. Please sign up if you would be willing to help. Any questions, contact Linda Wagner at 352-799-8577 or JoAnne Berg at 352-428-0156.



**COUNTERS NEEDED** — We are looking for anyone who is good with numbers and is willing to volunteer their services once a month as Head Counter. You will be responsible for a group who volunteers and prove the donations received from the Congregation. Training provided. Job takes about 1.5-2 hours to complete. For more information, please call Ernie Horeis at 352-666-7584.

# MISCELLANEOUS

**SATURDAY, March 2, 2019 — LIFE LINE SCREENING**

**STILL TIME TO REGISTER!**

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will host their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings on March 2. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (all five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete).

**There are three ways to register for this event, please visit [www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle), call 1-888-653-6441 or text the word circle to 797979.**



**Please come and join us for  
WELCA Gulf Coast Conference Spring Gathering.**

**"WELCOME ONE ANOTHER"**



Saturday, March 16th

St. Timothy Lutheran, Tarpon Springs

Registration begins at 9:30AM

Cost is \$8 (lunch included)

## REMINDERS

**OFFICE HOURS - Monday through Friday - 9AM-2PM**

### **SAVE THE DATE: EASTER BREAKFAST, Sunday, April**

**21.** Your Nativity Lutheran Youth Group will be offering a wonderful breakfast only between services on Easter morning featuring pancakes with toppings, sausage, scrambled eggs, tea, coffee and juice. The breakfast is a fundraiser for the Youth Group, and tickets will be available in advance for a donation.

### **NUTRITION IN OUR GOLDEN YEARS - March 14, 2019 - 10:45AM**

Tops 461 will be hosting a seminar on this very important topic. All are invited to attend the meeting on March 14, 2019 in Winemiller Hall. Seminar starts at 10:45AM and ends approximately 1:00PM. The guest speaker is Laura Acosta who is from the University of Florida, Gainesville. If you have any questions, please call Pat Leopold at 352-592-4595.

### **WE WANT TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOU**

We understand that not everybody is online and receives the church information through emails, Facebook, or our web-based calendar. If you know of anyone that has not been able to attend church for some time you may be the only link between them and Nativity. We would appreciate it if you would keep them included in the happenings at Nativity so that they may not miss out on activities or schedule changes. In addition, please let us know as well so that we can work to keep them in the loop about things at NLC. In addition, should you have a change in your address, phone number and/or email address, please let the office know. You can also include that info on the white communion cards.

**NEWSLETTER** —If you would like to have something included in the **April** newsletter, please submit it to the office or via email [nativitylutheran63@gmail.com](mailto:nativitylutheran63@gmail.com), and to Evelyn Galli via email [evgalli@bcany.com](mailto:evgalli@bcany.com) by **March 15**.



**NLC CALENDAR** — You can view it on the website, [www.nlcww.org](http://www.nlcww.org). If you do not have access to the website please let us know and we can arrange for you to receive a printed copy. In addition, on the website you can submit a request to schedule a meeting. We have many ministries scheduling meetings including non-NLC groups. If you need to reserve a room, please make sure you submit your request to the office. Submissions can be made using a form that can be obtained in the office, or via email to [nativitylutheran63@gmail.com](mailto:nativitylutheran63@gmail.com) or via the form on the website. This will help resolve any conflicts that may arise.

### **CPR TRAINING**

Thank you to all who have signed up. We are working with the CPR trainer to come up with a few dates. Most likely will be on a Thursday or Friday evening from 6-9:30PM.



The cost will be \$50.00 per person. More details to follow. Any questions, please contact Susan Lee at 586-405-3129.

### **COMMUNION MINISTRY HELP NEEDED**

With so many of our members being temporarily (after surgeries and medical procedures) or permanently housebound more people are needed to bring them Holy Communion. If God is calling you for this important ministry, please contact Pastor Giuseppe. A short training is all that is needed.

### **MAILBOXES**

When you come to church, please take a moment to check your mailbox in Winemiller Hall and see if anything was left for you.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

With the birth of Jesus in our hearts, we carry light and love to the world, trusting that the Christmas miracle will be reborn in us.

## **VISION STATEMENT**

We seek to become people who live the nativity by...

### ***Giving Worship and Praise to our God:***

Presenting ourselves before God as adoring servants, who, in loving God, recognize that it is no longer we who are at the center of the universe, but the One to whom we are singing our praises.

### ***Intentionally giving ourselves as Christ's***

***servants:*** Participating in his mission in the world, helping those who need our help, both in our church family and in the world beyond: recognizing that there can never really be any peace or joy for us until there is peace and joy for others.

### ***Opening our doors and our hearts to all***

***people:*** Welcoming all to our fellowship, caring for all in Christian love, and reaching out with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

***Being responsible to God*** through the creative use of our income, possessions, time and talent; recognizing that loving our neighbor is not so much a feeling as it is an act of will, and that sharing what we have on behalf of the Kingdom of God is only giving back what was already God's to being with.

***Encouraging each other to grow in faith:***

Growing our understanding of the scripture and God's leading in our lives through study of the Word, meditation, and prayer; knowing that learning is not just a matter of the mind, but also of the heart, and that raising questions is sometimes of more value than finding answers.

***Celebrating the gift of life together:*** Loving our neighbor, losing ourselves and then finding ourselves, having discovered that the Good News means that it is impossible not to feel joy in the presence of the Savior.

**VALUES STATEMENT**

We recognize that we are not here by chance but are gathered together to be the church of God in Christ. We recognize that God is making us, through grace, into a fellowship that embodies and expresses the spirit of Christ. In this fellowship "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is longer male or female, for all of us are one in Christ Jesus" (*Galatians 3:28*). We therefore welcome equally all people, regardless of religious office, position, possession, education, race, age, gender, sexual orientation, mental ability, physical ability, or other distinctions.

## March Birthdays

Evander Russell	03/02
Andreas Zybell	03/03
Pam Anderson	03/04
Barbara Hofving	03/04
Katlyn Maves	03/04
Charlene Massey	03/05
Ernie Horeis	03/08
Donna Olsen	03/08
Judith Dietz	03/10
Gloria Wright	03/10
Joanne Johnson	03/11
Eileen Smith	03/11
Theresa Hancock	03/12
Merritt Wilkins	03/12
Marianne Mock	03/13
Deanna Corbidge	03/14
Cheryl Colombo	03/15
Clarence Crawford	03/15
Doug Siegert	03/16
Dorothy Outhouse	03/17
Leonore Kopitzke	03/19
Sam Recenello	03/20
Janet Wilkens	03/20
Elmer Martin	03/21
Marilyn Henkel	03/22
Dana LaFranca	03/22



Sean Patterson	03/24
Sandy Peeters	03/24
Amber Marie Oliver	03/26
Daniel Still	03/27
Clyde Rosten	03/29

## March Wedding Anniversaries

William & Windy Binns	03/05
Johnny & Brenda Mullins	03/18
Chris & Liz Scavuzzo	03/21
Mark & Linda Hengesh	03/22
Gerald & Karen Flom	03/29

