



Happenings at NLC

February 2020

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

Hernando Harmonizers
“An Afternoon of Music”
February 8, 2020 at 2:00PM

Ash Wednesday Service
February 26, 2020 at 6:30PM

Upcoming Events

February 15 - Life Line Screening, 9AM-4PM

February 17 - Council Meeting, 6:00PM

February 22 - Spaghetti Dinner/Game Night,
5:00PM

February 23 - 2019 New Members Reunion,
12:30PM

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



6363 Commercial Way, Weeki
Wachee, FL 34613 • 352-597-1456 •
www.nlcww.org

LETTER FROM YOUR PREVIOUS COUNCIL PRESIDENT

It is unbelievable to think that we as Christians will celebrate the beginning of Lent on the Western Christian calendar falling 46 days before Easter. There are many questions about Lent and how it is reflected in our lives as Christians. Some of them refer to Ash Wednesday and Lent not being mentioned in the Bible.

1. What does Ash Wednesday symbolize?
2. What does the Bible say about Lent?
3. How should we observe Ash Wednesday?

In answer to the question of Ash Wednesday and Lent mentioned in the Bible, it is never directly mentioned in the Bible and it is one of the most celebrated Christian events in church history. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a season of fasting, reflection and remembrance before the Holy Week and resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday.

When we think of what Ash Wednesday symbolizes it is the Christian belief that humans were created from dust and will return to dust when they die. This belief, however, is offset by the belief that the death of Christ allowed for people to be more than simply dust; it allowed for an eternal life in heaven, outside the body.

So what does the Bible say about Lent? The Bible does teach the importance of fasting and self-examination, but it does not teach a 40 day period called Lent or Ash Wednesday of placing ashes on the forehead. The Bible does not mention Ash Wednesday or Lent, and the early New Testament Church did not observe these days.

Lastly, some suggestions on observing Ash Wednesday:

- Fast for the day
- Many Christians observe Ash Wednesday by fasting from bread and water
- Receive ashes on your forehead which may be in the shape of the cross
- Reflect in your own way

This year Ash Wednesday falls on February 26th.

God's peace to you and yours.

Will Schantl

SPIRITUAL LIFE

SOUL SEEKERS - February 10, 2020, 7:00PM. We would like to welcome you to be a part of a Spirituality Group at Nativity Lutheran Church. This group is designed to support and encourage our relationships with God as we face the challenges and joys together. We meet the second Monday of the month from 7:00PM to 9:00PM, in the Sanctuary. This group is open to all.... young, not so young, male, female, community members, members, friends, 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@hotmai.com.

ALTAR GUILD – February 19, 2020, 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**.

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 flowers, the Altar Guild will have them ready for you to pick up after the 11:00AM service. **PLEASE**, do **not** remove flowers from the altar. Members from the Altar Guild will remove them for you.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE — Wednesday, February 26, 2020, 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 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 are prepared by burning palm leaves from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebrations. Holy Communion will also be available.



WEDNESDAY SERVICES DURING LENT IN MARCH & APRIL.

Lenten Services will be held at 5:45PM. Prior to the service, please join us for "Soup & Sandwiches" in Winemiller Hall from 5-5:30PM.

March 4 - Christ emptied and humbled himself

March 11 - Christ became obedient

March 18 - At the name of Jesus all knees shall bow

March 25 - Every tongue confesses Jesus

April 1 - Let the same mind be in you

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 11, 18 & 25—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 Alexis Peterson at 814-490-3828.

Dear Church Family,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who had any part in my ordination. The day was Spirit filled. I know many people worked tirelessly on details from getting the church ready, to signage, to the reception, to those who assisted with worship, and the many office tasks. I am forever grateful. Bishop Suarez was complimentary of the hospitality. Again, thank you all for your support on my journey to get to this day. The generous gifts will be used for fabric for additional stoles, help with my cross and other items for my ministry.

Peace and blessings, Michelle Mehan

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, they can stay longer in prayer in the sanctuary. Please join us and help spread the word.

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 - DRUG AND MENTAL HEALTH COURT

February's Mission of the Month is the Women of Nativity's (WON) work with the Hernando County Drug, Mental Health and Veterans Treatment Courts. For several years, WON has enhanced graduation day for the graduates by providing each of them with a handmade quilt or blanket and congratulatory card. These gifts are happily anticipated and appreciated. WON has also served cake and publicly congratulated and thanked the graduates, the court, the counselors and law enforcement personnel who have worked diligently to make this important achievement a reality. WON's representative at the graduation encourages the graduates to seek a house of worship, if they are not currently involved with one, and includes an invitation to visit Nativity. Any Monthly Mission Funds will be used to purchase supplies for making the quilts and blankets, to reward participants with gift cards to non-alcohol restaurants when they attain goals, and for bus passes and gasoline for needy participants. If you are a Thrivent member, please consider applying for a Thrivent Action Team Grant for WON's work with Hernando County's treatment courts. Contact Susan Nordstrom for more information (352-428-1918).

NovusWay MINISTRIES

28 SPRUCE DRIVE · ARDEN, NORTH CAROLINA 28704 · 828-684-2361 · WWW.NOVUSWAY.ORG

December 30, 2019

Nativity Lutheran Church
6363 Commercial Way
Weeki Wachee, FL 34613-6353

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$94.00 to NovusWay Ministries. Your gift changes everything for children like *Lily. Lily's family can no longer provide for her, so a family in one of our partner congregations welcomed her into their home. Lily is friends with their daughter from school. Lily's short life hasn't been easy or supportive. As a middle schooler, Lily wasn't excited about attending worship with her friend's family on a weekly basis. She wasn't excited about attending camp for the first time either. She arrived at camp with her guard up.

"I tried to check in with the girls each day at meals," said their pastor. "The first day she spoke to me. After that she was too busy talking and laughing with her friends to even realize I was there." It wasn't just making friends that changed everything for Lily while at camp. It was her counselor, C3ARE, vespers and the community of faith. "She couldn't stop talking about camp all the way home, and now she is an acolyte. She no longer complains about attending worship each week and she is sharing God moments at youth group."

Like nearly 400 children, Lily came to camp on a scholarship this summer. Changes like Lily's are not possible without your generosity. Thank you again for your loyal and steadfast support. Your gift changes everything.

Sincerely in Christ,



Boyd W. Harris, IV
Executive Director-CEO



Mitzie Schafer, Deacon
Vice President for Advancement

P.S. NovusWay has the free resources to assist with comprehensive estate planning for those who want to learn more about leaving a legacy that changes everything. Contact Mitzie Schafer at 803-413-7827 or mschafer@novusway.org to learn more.

**Names have been changed and congregation names omitted to protect privacy.*

Please keep this acknowledgement letter as record of your gift for tax purposes. Year-end statements are available by request only. NovusWay Ministries acknowledges that you have not received any tangible goods or services in exchange for this contribution.



THE NOVUSWAY FAMILY OF MINISTRIES CONSISTS OF:

LUTHERIDGE (ARDEN, NC) · LUTHEROCK (NEWLAND, NC) · LUTHER SPRINGS (HAWTHORNE, FL) · LUTHERANCH (TALLAPOOSA, GA)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Discipleship)

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The Youth Group meets Thursday evenings at 6:00PM for devotion and fellowship. Meetings are held at Nativity in the Youth Room.

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

CONFIRMATION CLASS - FERUARY 2 and 16 at 9:45AM-10:45AM. We will start out in Al Lien Hall for music practice, then proceed to the Library. This year the confirmands will be studying Lutheranism and specifically Martin Luther's Small Catechism.

NEW MEMBER REUNION - FEBRUARY 23, 2020, 12:30PM. People who became members in 2019 are invited to a reunion to enjoy a time of fellowship and share what their experience of integration within our church life has been like.

COMMUNITY LIFE

WOMEN OF NATIVITY

All women members of Nativity Lutheran Church are automatically members of W.O.N. and are welcome to participate in all sponsored activities of W.O.N.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE are enjoying a "Friends and Faith" weekend in Kissimmee, beginning as early as January 30 and ending as late as February 3 (Circle member's choice) at Wyndham Cypress Palms, Kissimmee. Thanks to Alexis Peterson and her Wyndham rewards, cost will be a non-refundable \$30 and a dish to share. Accommodations are for up to 16 on Thursday (January 30) and 12 on Friday, Saturday and Sunday (January 31-February 2). This will be 2 to a bed (kings and queen sofa beds), a full kitchen in one suite and partial kitchen in another. We will have breakfast, devotions and meeting in our PJs in the largest suite on Saturday morning. After that, everyone is free to come and go whenever they choose--to a theme park, the Holy Land Experience, the 400-ft. Observation ferris wheel, etc. With Bank of America credit/debit cards, admission is free at four Orlando museums on Saturday and Sunday. We will attend Trinity Lutheran Church in Kissimmee Sunday morning.

PAINTING CLASS - Wednesday, February 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2020, 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.

CARDS R US - Wednesday, February 5 & 12, 2020, 12:30PM-3PM. Cards R Us will enjoy crafting new greeting cards out of recycled greeting cards on first and second Wednesdays, February 5 and 12. Everyone is invited to join us in this mission project, which raises money for Pastor's Discretionary Fund and is used to help people in need. For more information, you can contact Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

MARY JOY CIRCLE - Thursday, February 13, 2020, 12:30PM Our monthly Bible study continues on Thursday, February 13, 2020, at 12:30PM in Al Lien Hall. All women of Nativity are invited to join us for fellowship and bible study (led by Cam Martin). We look forward to welcoming you. For more information, please contact Evelyn Lawlor at 352-835-7784.

DAYS FOR GIRLS - next meeting will be Thursday, February 20, 2020, 9:00AM. 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 information, contact Jill Helgeson at 352-686-3367.

SARAH CIRCLE - Thursday, February 27, 2020, 10:00AM - 12:00PM. We meet the 4th Thursday of every month. If you enjoy making shawls please join us. For more information, contact Peggy Sanders at 352-382-1781.

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. Please come and join us. Questions? Call Jill Helgeson at 352-686-3367.

THE NATIVITY CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT will take place on February 16, 2020, at Hernando Oaks Golf Club (5230 Delacroix Dr, Brooksville, FL 34604.) Please be at the course by 1:30PM. You will get your team assignment at that time. Tee time is 2:00PM sharp. Dinner afterwards will be at Hernando Oaks. A sign up sheet is on the kiosk in the Narthex. More info to follow. Any question, please contact Jim Runyan at 609-385-6679.

COMMUNITY BAND FORMING AT NATIVITY - Nativity member Mark Hengesh is in the process of forming a community concert band which will be based here at Nativity Lutheran Church. The group will be called the Weeki Wachee Winds, and will be open to any musicians from high school age through post-retirement who play a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument. Weekly rehearsals will be Thursday evenings in Winemiller Hall from 7 - 9 p.m., beginning February 20 through April 23. The band will play at the 11:00 a.m. service on April 19, and play a concert at Nativity on Thursday April 23 at 7:30 p.m. Mark is a retired band director with 40 years of experience in the Chicago suburban area, directing groups at the elementary, high school, community college and community band level. For more information, or to donate usable instruments, or funds, contact Mark at 630-244-5105, email at: director.wwwinds@gmail.com, or most Sundays in the choir loft. Please spread the word to your friends and neighbors who may be interested.

MEN'S BREAKFAST - Tuesday, February 18, 2020, 8:30AM. Please join us at **PERKINS RESTAURANT**, 4685 Commercial Way, Spring Hill, for fellowship and breakfast. For more info on this group, please call Jim Christensen at 352-683-9141.

PATTER FROM PATTI

Tis February and we are well into a Florida winter, great isn't it? Here is what we have coming up:

Saturday, February 22nd, 5:00PM - Spaghetti Dinner/ Team Trivia Night.

We haven't had one of these nights for a few years, so let's do it. We will offer a spaghetti dinner to include spaghetti, meatballs, salad, Italian bread, and ice cream. We will even offer Gluten Free pasta, just let us know when you get your tickets so we know how much of it to make. After dinner we will have a rousing game of Team Trivia. I will admit last time we did this, I got so confused trying to keep score, I have passed that responsibility on. Of course you can expect it to get a little competitive because of the big prizes?? the winning team will receive. The cost is \$5.00 per person and tickets will go on sale starting on Sunday February 2nd. Enjoy a fun casual evening with your Nativity family.

Friday, March 27th, 6:00PM - Show Palace presents Mama Mia.

We have 48 tickets available, first come----. We will end sales when they are all sold, or by February 23rd. The group rate is \$45.00 per person to include the play and buffet dinner. With the new owners of the Show Palace we are told there are some changes. Our tickets will include the cost of the gratuity and non-alcohol beverage and an upscale dessert. So if you are interested and there are still tickets available, get a movin.

April will be our final event most likely to be an ever popular Mystery Dinner, watch for details.

The Fellowship Committee is excited to share with you our new purchase and donation to Nativity. 13 years ago we purchased the oilcloth tablecloths we have been using ever since. Some of them are starting to show their wear so we have been researching replacements. Pat Runyan has really taken this on and we finally have made a decision. We have ordered the material and we will be cutting them ourselves since it was quite costly for them to do it. The total cost is about \$1,000, we are able to do this because for many of our activities we have been able to get Thrivent Funding, thus we made some profits on our ticket sales. We hope to have them up within the month. We are not disposing of the old ones, but ask if you or your group are doing something that could damage the new ones that you either remove them and replace with the old ones or put an old one over the new one to protect it. Thank you Pat for all of the work you have put into this project. If we have the funding available we are also thinking of trying to replace some of the lace tablecloths used for Memorial dinners or fancier occasions. Problem is we can't find any similar ones with a similar religious design as we have now. If anyone remembers where those were purchased please let us know. We found one place, but we can't afford their prices.

Over the years Fellowship has been happy to use our funds to purchase needed items for the church, so thank you for participating, and if you have let us use your Thrivent Funds a big thank you.

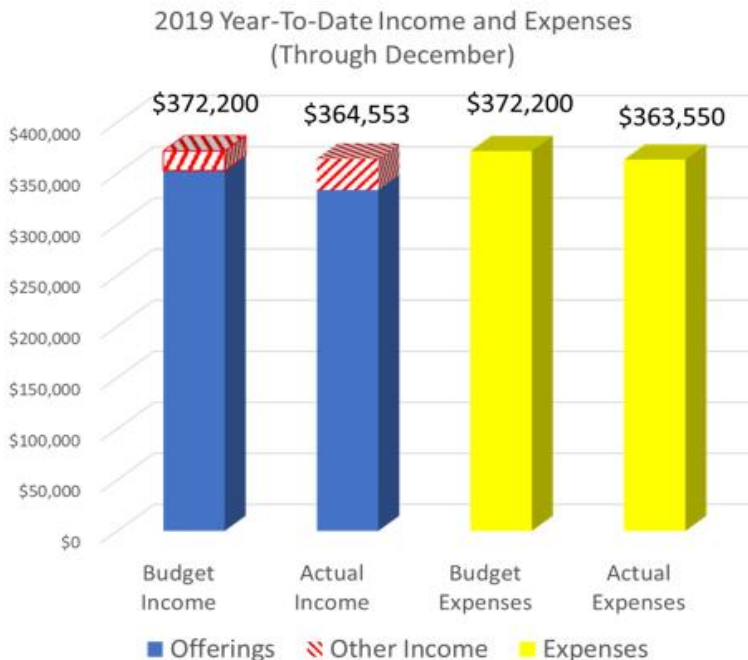
If you have any questions about our functions or anything else don't hesitate to give me a call. 352-797-9682.

Patti Cotter

FROM NATIVITY'S FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Thank you, thank you, thank you. Nativity finished the year with a BANG!!! Through your generosity, we finished with a positive balance for the year 2019. In addition, your generosity added **\$10,000 in matching funds** to the bottom line. Now, with the new year beginning, I am looking for individual giving OVER last year's giving to qualify for matching funds in the first quarter. Please consider the increase that will double your giving.

2019 END-OF-THE-YEAR GIVING STATEMENTS have been generated and are being sent via USPS. Be on the lookout for your statement. If you do not receive one, please feel free to contact me. --Jane Henkel, Financial Secretary (651) 402-1473.



Questions: jane.henkel@nlcww.org

MISCELLANEOUS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2020
LIFE LINE SCREENING, 9AM - 4PM
STILL TIME TO REGISTER!

Why Get Screened?

Taking preventive steps such as making lifestyle changes and getting health screenings may help you avoid a stroke or other serious health events in the future. Early intervention is important.

If you are over fifty and have diabetes, high cholesterol, high blood pressure or if you have a family history of stroke or heart disease, you may be at risk, even if you feel great. In fact, four out of five people who suffer a stroke have no apparent symptoms and nearly 30% of strokes occur under the age of 65. The good news is that according to the National Stroke Association, 80% of strokes can be prevented.

Life Line Screening will help you find out if you are at risk, so you and your doctor can take the next steps and be proactive about your health.

Where: Nativity Lutheran Church
When: Friday, February 15, 2020

Pre-registration is required. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests + Osteoporosis from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). The screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount please call 1-888-653-6450 or text CIRCLE to 797979 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle.

\$10 Off

**Friends & Family
Savings Coupon**



**Call to register at
1-888-653-6450**

\$10 Off

**Friends & Family
Savings Coupon**



**Call to register at
1-888-653-6450**



THE HERNANDO HARMONIZERS will hold “An Afternoon of Music” concert on **Saturday, February 8, 2020, 2PM**, at Nativity Lutheran Church. Tickets are free and a love offering will be collected. To obtain tickets, please stop by the church office weekdays between 10AM-1PM. For more information, please call 352-597-1456.



COUNTERS NEEDED — Every week donations are counted by a group of volunteers. For more information, please call Ernie Horeis at 352-666-7584.

AV OPERATORS NEEDED. The audio operator makes sure the congregation can hear the spoken word and music. Please consider helping to take on this very important (yet simple) task. Call Art Alt at 352-596-1585 for more info.

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. Please contact Pastor Giuseppe. A short training is all that is needed.

HELP WANTED. THE WOMEN OF NATIVITY ORGANIZATION is looking for volunteers to represent Nativity at the Hernando County Drug Court, Mental Health Court, and Veteran Court graduations. If you would like to learn more about this program, or would like to volunteer, please contact Susan Nordstrom at 352-428-1918.

GARDEN HELP WANTED! We need your help to maintain the gardens at the entrance of the administration building. Any questions, contact Linda Wagner at 352-799-8577 or JoAnne Berg at 352-428-0156.

REMINDERS

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

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.

NEWSLETTER: If you would like to have something included in the **March** newsletter, please submit it to the office by **February 15**.

NLC CALENDAR: You can view it on the website, 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 or via the form on the website. This will help resolve any conflicts that may arise.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

OUR 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 no 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, possessions, education, race, age, gender, sexual orientation, mental ability, physical ability or other distinctions. (Adopted 9/7/07)

February Birthdays

Iris Brunner	2/2
Ivette Sanchez	2/6
Charles Wingrove	2/6
Roger Wendrzycki	2/7
Simone Mattei	2/9
Margret Ahlquist	2/11
Gerald Flom	2/15
Beverly Houdek	2/15
Joseph Rogers	2/15
Arthur Diedrich	2/16
Valerie Mahon	2/16
Zell Boggus	2/17
Bette Kosatko	2/17
Don Hoy	2/19
Doreen Davis	2/19
Galina Maras-Kesteloot	2/19
Patrick Gould	2/22
Georgeann Scheidter	2/22
Debra LaFranca	2/23
Lynne Merritt	2/24
Jim Runyan	2/24
Robert Sanders	2/24



Dieter Steffens	2/24
Alyssa Oliver	2/25
Darlene Gould	2/26
Carol White	2/26
Philip Wolfe	2/26
Susan Degg II	2/27
Lorraine Meyer	2/27
Matthew Breida	2/28
Lilo Horeis	2/28
Frank Margagliotti	2/28
Trevor Massey	2/28

February Wedding Anniversaries

Lorrie & Frank DeFrancesco	2/11
Phyllis & Ted Simpson	2/16
Carol & Richard Fleschner	2/17
Linda & Brian Wagner	2/26

