Our Redeemer News

Web Page: <u>www.ourredeemer-lcms.org</u> Telephone: (586) 781-5567

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SERMON and SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

March 3: CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINES:

"My First Commitment" - (Matthew 6:33)

March 6: Lent IV-GRACE IN OUR TIME OF NEED

"I Just Can't Resist?" – (Hebrews 4:15-16 & Matthew 4:1-3)

March 10: CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINES:

"Generosity" – (Acts 20:35)

March 13: Lent V - GRACE IN OUR TIME OF NEED

"I'm So Angry" – (Hebrews 4:15-16 & Ephesians 4:26)

March 17: CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINES:

"Faithfulness" – (Matthew 25:21)

March 20: Lent VI - GRACE IN OUR TIME OF NEED

"Can Anyone See Me?"

(Hebrews 4:15-16 & Luke 17:12-17)

March 24: PALM SUNDAY

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINES:

"Perseverance" - (Mark 11:9-10)

March 28: MAUNDY THURSDAY – 6:30pm

"He Took Our Illnesses and Bore Our

Diseases." – (Matthew 8:14-17)

March 29: GOOD FRIDAY - 1:00pm & 6:30pm

"Healing Through Jesus' Forgiveness"

(Luke 23:34)

March 31: EASTER – 7am & 10:30am Worship

Breakfast after 7am Worship Service

"Victory Has Been Won!" (1 Corinthians 15:20, 56-57)



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But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. (1 Corinthians 15:20)

In St. Paul's great "Resurrection Chapter", 1 Corinthians 15, he uses a word that my autocorrect doesn't like –firstfruits". Whenever I type the word it gets underlined in red by my computer. I like that! It draws my attention to the word, and more importantly, to its meaning. When Christ rose from the dead, it was not a single event that would never be repeated. It is the gift of Easter that God offers to ALL who put their faith in Jesus as Savior.

Easter is the most important event in the Church's calendar, and it is the most important event for mankind. It is the celebration of Jesus' victory over death, the devil, and sin. And it is a victory in which we get to share. Jesus was the first, but we will also conquer through Him.

Easter means we don't need to fear death because heaven is our home. It means our guilt and shame have been taken away. It means God loves us, and has a purpose for our lives. It means there is nothing that can separate us from His love. It is worth celebrating and living every day. Christ is risen, He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Holy week this year begins with Palm Sunday, March 24 when we celebrate Jesus triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Maundy Thursday, March 28 at 6:30 p.m., we partake of His victory through a special service of the Lord's Supper. Good Friday, March 29 at 1 and 6:30 p.m., we remember the price Jesus paid on the cross for His victory. And Easter Sunday, March 31 at 7 and 10:30 a.m. we rejoice with exceeding joy: Christ is Risen, the victory is won!

Join us for all the Holy Week worship opportunities. Don't forget to invite friends and relatives.



Continued...

And join us for breakfast between the Easter morning services.

Jesus is the firstfruits, but not the last. In Him we are victorious as well. Happy Easter!

In Him I am faithfully yours, Pastor Draeger

QUEST FOR CHRIST

The Empowering Emotion of Joy John 15:9~7

Jesus promised us His joy. However, such gladness evades most Christians.

There are certain important points to understand about joy. This gift to every believer in Christ has a spiritual source—the Holy Spirit—and is produced from within by Him. Being supernatural in nature, divine joy exists independently of our circumstances. Happiness, on the other hand, comes from external causes, is earthly in character, and increases or decreases as events change. The success of a sports team, recognition by others or completion of a project all represent sources of earthly happiness.

Holy Spirit-developed joy comes when we:

• Focus on our relationship with the Lord.

Because of Jesus, our sins are forgiven, our names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life, and we are forever His. Nothing can separate us from Him in this life or in eternity.

• Observe His transforming work in others.

Notice and draw pleasure from what God is doing: rescuing people from bondage to sin and transforming them into His likeness.

• Serve those He sends to us.

Our obedient loving care for others brings spiritual joy.

Meditate on God's living Word.

Through Scripture, we receive an outpouring of His love and precious truths on which to build our lives.

The Holy Spirit desires to produce gladness within you. Take a few minutes to ponder the wonder of your new birth, share someone's spiritual joy, obediently serve someone else, or receive guidance from His Word. Then check your emotional barometer. Are you singing hallelujah yet?



LWML Mites Working Hard

\$50,000 of National LWML mites will go to Siouxland Lutheran Hispanic Ministry. Hope Lutheran Church in South Sioux City, Nebraska, called Pastor Paul Flo to be the first fulltime missionary pastor for this ministry. He is a missionary pastor for the tri-state area of South Dakota, Nebraska, and Iowa and collaborates with and trains local congregations to help meet the needs of the Hispanic people and share the Good News of Jesus.

\$25,000 of **Michigan District** mites will go to "**Shepherding the Sheep**". This grant will enable five Michigan District congregational teams (pastor and four members of the congregation he serves) to build up the Body of Christ as they make bold witness to the Good News and Jesus' love through acts of mercy.

Everyone is encouraged to give their sacrificial gifts for these special mission efforts. Simply put your offering in an envelope for LWML Mites and drop it off in the office or the office box in the narthex.

Thank you.

Our Redeemer LWML Ministry



It's time to think about the annual EASTER EGG HUNT for all kids through 5th grade. The Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Palm Sunday, March 24th following the 10:30 service. If you would like to help us fill the eggs, please place your donations of SMALL, INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED candy in the basket in the narthex by Sunday, March 17. Thank you for your help! Invite your friends to join in the fun!! Hope to see you there.

LWML NEWS.

Thank you to all of you who helped make the Mom2Mom sale a success! It was a lot of work, but also lots of fun. I could not have done it without your help, so again thank you.

We are in the process of planning our Woman of the Year luncheon for Our Redeemer's 2023 Woman of the Year Donna Zuehlk. The date and time will be in upcoming bulletins and newsletters. We hope you will congratulate Donna and come and celebrate with her.

We are still collecting items for Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child. Year-round shoe-box shopping. Our goal is to fill fifty shoe boxes in November for children in need. Items for March are crafts and activities. Books, picture books, coloring books or pads, dry watercolor set, puzzles, playdough, stickers, chalkboard, and chalk, jump ropes, craft, or jewelry kits, sewing kits. For school age boys and girls. Thank you for any help you can give.

We will be hosting a Euchre night Friday, March 15th. There will be a light dinner and snacks. The price will be \$12.00 per person. More information/details will be in upcoming bulletins.

We will be having a Craft & Vendor show on Saturday, April 13th. There will be thirty-eight table spaces available. Please contract me at irmasonall@gmail.com for more information. I will be opening the show to the public on March 1st.

Please join us at our March 4th meeting, we will be having a speaker, Jenny Jaroneski. She is our LWML district Young Woman Representative. The meeting will start at 6:30 pm. Hope to see you there.

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Mason
LWML Secretary

SONshine Kids News & Notes

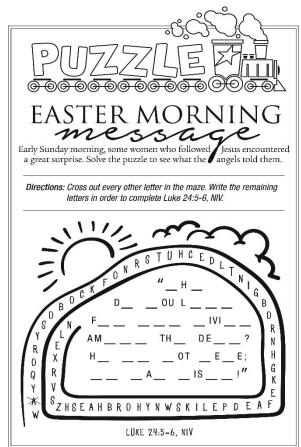
The SONshine Kids spent the month of February learning about God's love and the miracles of Jesus, praising God with their voices, and growing closer to Him each week through lessons, crafts, and games!

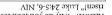
Looking ahead to March, we'll be focusing on Holy Week and Easter! Here are a couple of dates to note for the coming month:

- Sunday, March 24th Easter Party!
- Sunday, March 31st No Class (Easter Sunday)

May God bless your family this Lenten season, and may you find time to focus on and celebrate the resurrection of our Savior!

Serving in Christ, Mandi Wesley

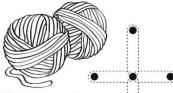






CROSS CRAFT

Make this special cross as a reminder of Jesus' death and resurrection.

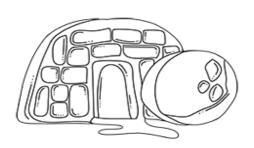


What you need:

- Adult help
- Piece of wood
- 5 nails
- Hammer
- 2 balls of yarn (blue and yellow)

What you do:

- 1. Hammer the nails into the wood to form a cross shape (see example).
- 2. Tie the blue yarn to the bottom nail. Wrap it up and around the top nail and back down to the bottom nail. Then wrap it around the middle nail and around the side nails. Repeat until the yarn is wrapped about halfway up the exposed nails.
- 3. Repeat step two with the yellow yarn. Wrap it around the nails until only the heads are visible.





Valuing Life: A Personal Reflection

by Mandi Wesley

As I sit here writing this article, I am eagerly (and admittedly, impatiently) awaiting the birth of our third child. The months, weeks, days, and hours that have passed since we found out we were expecting have given me ample time to reflect on the gift of life and the tremendous joy that comes with a new baby. This time has also led me to reflect on the sad state of our society, which continues to devalue that very gift of life and celebrate its destruction.

I know first-hand that pregnancy does not come easily for some couples. We went through several years of waiting, praying, and some basic infertility treatments before being blessed with our firstborn, a daughter. We went through several more years of waiting, praying, failed infertility treatments, and a year-long adoption process before being blessed with our son through adoption. We were so thankful that God had given us two children, and we felt that our family was likely complete. In addition to the gratefulness we had for our two kids, the astronomical cost and the stress of both infertility and adoption had led us to close the doors on pursuing either of those routes again.

Needless to say, we were beyond thrilled last June to find out that God had blessed us with a third child. The shock, joy, disbelief, and excitement created a surge of emotions that I'll never forget. Ten years ago, we weren't sure if we would be able to have any kids at all, and now here we are - days away from meeting our third little one!

I share all of this because I understand that our path was different than the "average" couple's. I am confident that the long, bumpy road we traveled to become parents has made us all the more grateful for the kids God has placed in our care. I believe that people tend to appreciate something more when they have to work harder or wait longer to get it, and I'm sure that plays a part in my passion for life ministry and my desire for all people to see the value of every life, especially the unborn. But I also believe that the road a couple (or an individual) travels does not excuse them from seeing the value of every life. Whether pregnancy came easily or not, whether a pregnancy was planned or not, whether it's an "ideal" time to have a baby, whether the parents are financially stable, whether there's a chance the baby may have a medical condition, or whatever other various scenarios you can think of, that baby is a precious life, created by God. God already has a purpose and a plan for that precious life, and no circumstance of the parents or anyone else merits the destruction of that life. Take a look at a couple of truths found in Scripture that support this claim:

- Psalm 139:13 "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb." This verse
 emphasizes the fact that God created us in the womb. This is important because it confirms that we did not
 come to be by chance or by accident; rather, we were created by God. This fact alone means that our life
 has had meaning and purpose from the time we were in our mother's womb.
- Exodus 20:13 "You shall not murder." When God gave the Ten Commandments, He was straightforward and direct. These clearly stated laws were guidelines for the Israelites long ago and for us today. The Fifth Commandment does not include a list of exceptions...it doesn't say "You shall not murder unless the victim is younger than ____ or older than ____," or "You shall not murder unless the victim has a disability," or "You shall not murder unless this is an inconvenient time to have a child." Rather, it simply and directly states, "You shall not murder." It leaves no room for interpretation. Thinking back to the previous truth that God created us in the womb, this commandment certainly applies even to those little lives at their earliest stages.
- Matthew 22:39 "Love your neighbor as yourself." In this verse, Jesus is stating that the idea of *loving one's neighbor* is the second greatest command, behind only *loving the Lord your God*. It is understood throughout Scripture that the idea of *neighbor* refers to all human beings. We have already established that God creates life in the womb, so this term *neighbor* certainly extends to those lives in the womb. Can you think of a more vulnerable, helpless, at-risk group of *neighbors* than the unborn? They certainly need our love, protection, and willingness to stand up and defend their right to life.

The fact that there are people in our world, our country, our state, and maybe even our own circles of friends and family who refuse to acknowledge these Scriptural truths is heartbreaking. People are literally fighting for the "right" to murder, and celebrating when that "right" is granted. What an absolute slap in the face to anyone who has ever longed for a child, lost a child, struggled with infertility, or had a miscarriage. More so, what a slap in the face to God, our Creator, and the truths that He set forth for us in His Word. You don't need to have personal experience with pregnancy, infertility, or parenthood to recognize the horror of abortion and to feel heartbroken over the millions of lives lost to and affected by abortion. As Christians, as those who believe in the truths of Scripture, and as humans who respect and desire to protect every life, we need to continue to pray, share, and spread information to help end the atrocity of abortion. It will not go away on its own. We need to help create a major culture shift that leads to loving, valuing, and protecting one another and the most vulnerable among us - the unborn.

May God bless you and lead you to share His truth, inspire change, and boldly stand up to defend the right to life for all of His precious children.

*THANK YOU to everyone who donated to the January Baby Bottle Drive! This year, we collected a total of \$3,484. We'll be splitting that amount between National Lutherans for Life and the Luke Project 52 Clinic of Flint. Thank you for your continued support of Life Ministry, and for your generous contributions which will help support the crucial work of these wonderful organizations!

Upcoming Events:

• Lutheran Adoption Conference: April 10-11 in Houston, TX Adoption and Christianity go together like apple pie and ice cream. We just can't tell the story of God's love for humankind without talking about adopting. That's why Christianity invented organized orphan care. But did you know more than 114,000 children in the U.S. are currently awaiting an adoptive home? Did you know that almost 153 million little ones live as orphans right now worldwide? And did you know that Lutherans can't wait to do something about it? At the Lutheran Adoption Conference, enjoy the testimony and talents of Dove Award-winning musician and adoptee Mark Schultz. Experience the fellowship and celebration. Discover the expert information and exciting opportunities. For more information or to register, visit: lutheransadopt.org

SAVE THE DATE - A Life Summit

- Human Development in the Womb
- Organ Donation & the Determination of Death Featuring Dr Roni Grad

Sunday, April 28th from 2-5pm St Paul Lutheran Church Fowler, MI

Car-pooling will be available from church.



GRAB YOUR GEAR! We are diving into friendship with God! SCUBA VBS is coming to Our Redeemer July 8-11th!!

We are looking for volunteers to be crew leaders & station leader/helpers. It's not too early to say YES!

Let Kathy Sowers know if you are interested.

Beginning **April 1**st, a link on our church website will be up for children ages 4-6 to sign up!!





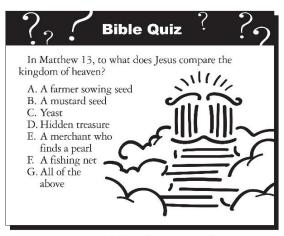
March Pantry Needs		
Coffee	Pancake Syrup	
Vegetable Soup	Cream of Mushroom Soup	
Canned Beets	Sloppy Joe Sauce	
Taco Kits	Tuna Helper	
Rice Sides	Shampoo	





Samaritan House Business Hours

Tuesday, 10am-6pm Wednesday, 10am-6pm Friday, 10am-4pm (586-336-9956)



Answer: G (See Matthew 13:24-51.)



Financial Column

Contact: James M. Riske, CFP®, RICP®, CKA®, MSF

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Six Ways to Clean up Your Finances

Just as your house regularly needs organizing and deep cleaning, so do your finances. Follow these six tips to clean up your finances, enabling you to achieve financial clarity so you can live the full and meaningful life you've imagined.

1. Get organized

Maintaining your important financial documents and information in one place is key. Create a master spreadsheet with account numbers and passwords. Keep this document safe and protected—if it's on paper, lock it in a safe or cabinet and if it's a digital file, make sure it's password-protected. Keep regular inflows of paperwork organized in a binder or file folder and don't forget to shred the documents when it's time to get rid of them. If storing electronic files on a hard drive, make sure it's password-protected, encrypted and stored in a safe place.

2. Address your debt

Debt can be a constant drain on your budget, making it harder to pay other bills and save for your future. Start by choosing one form of debt and working to pay it off in a timely manner. It may be the one with the largest interest rate or one with a small balance that you can eliminate. If you're challenged to keep up with various loan due dates, consider consolidating your payments. The benefit of this approach is you may end up with a lower interest rate, too.

3. Plan for major expenses

Is a vacation or big purchase on your radar? Start putting money aside now to cover the costs. This eliminates the need to use your emergency fund or your credit card, which could increase your debt. Avoid mingling spending money with an emergency fund; instead, open a second savings account that's used only for planned expenses.

4. Prepare for life changes

Planning to grow your family or start a small business in the near future? Or maybe you're starting to think about retirement. Are you hoping to buy a car soon or do you want to fund an education savings account for a child or grandchild? Begin to take concrete steps toward meeting your goals by creating a strategy to reach them. You also may want to anticipate risks that could be a significant blow to you or your family's financial future. Consider a life insurance contract that protects your family if the unthinkable happens. Disability income insurance can help with lost income should you be unable to work at some point. Working with a financial professional is a great way to see if you're missing anything.

5. Mind your retirement accounts

it. Diversification does not assure a profit or protect against loss in a declining market.

If you're still working, it's always a good time to review your contribution levels to make sure you're putting enough money into tax-advantaged vehicles like 401(k)s and IRAs. However, if you were age 70 ½ prior to 2020, or if you weren't, once you attain age 72, the IRS requires you to begin withdrawing a certain amount of money from your employer-sponsored retirement plans, traditional, SIMPLE and SEP IRAs. This is referred to as your required minimum distribution, or RMDs. While Thrivent does not provide specific legal or tax advice, we can partner with you and your tax professional or attorney

6. Set charitable goals

One of the benefits of cleaning up your finances is that you might be able to be more generous. Consider reviewing your goals for giving to your church or favorite charitable organizations. You also could set a target for how much volunteer time you can contribute to a special cause.

It feels great when your house is clean, and it's much easier to keep it clean when you keep up with it regularly. The same is true with your finances. Following these steps regularly will help you achieve financial clarity so you can live a life of meaning and gratitude.

This article was prepared by Thrivent for use by <u>local area FP-James Riske</u>. <u>He</u> has offices at 48639 Hayes Rd. Office #2 in Shelby Township and can also be reached at (586) 981-5333.

About Thrivent

Thrivent is a diversified financial services organization that helps people achieve financial clarity, enabling lives full of meaning and gratitude. As a mission-driven, membership-owned organization, it offers its more than 2 million members and customers a broad range of financial products, services and guidance. Thrivent and its subsidiary and affiliate companies offer insurance, investments, banking and advice over the phone, online as well as through financial professionals and independent agents nationwide. Thrivent is a FORTUNE 500 company with \$152 billion in assets under management/advisement (as of 12/31/19). For more information, visit http://drivent.com. You can also find us on Facebook and Twitter. THRIVENT IS THE MARKETING NAME FOR THRIVENT FINANCIAL FOR LUTHERANS. Insurance products issued by Thrivent. Not available in all states. Securities and investment advisory services offered through Thrivent Investment Management Inc., a registered investment adviser, member FINRA and SIPC, and a subsidiary of Thrivent. Licensed agent/producer of Thrivent. Registered representative of Thrivent Investment Management, Inc. Advisory services available through investment adviser representatives only. Thrivent.com/disclosures. Thrivent and its financial professionals do not provide legal, accounting or tax advice. Consult your attorney or tax professional. While diversification can help reduce market risk, it does not eliminate



MISSION LIFE NEWS

Mission: Life Fellowship

Hi Everyone,

Children's Ministry Month was wonderful!! All of the children participated in some way.

We also decorated cookies & wrote Valentines to 23 college students. On February 14th, the students served dinner! Did you see the Junior choir perform? They were amazing! Great job girls! What a busy month!!

Thank you to all the parents for encouraging your children and supporting our Mission Life Program! Starting next week, class will be let out at 5:45 to eat dinner with their parents before Lenten Service at 6:30pm.

There will be no class on March 27th due to Spring Break.

Here are the acolytes for March:

3rd- Megan Muirhead

10th-Alyssa Smiley

17th- Preston Peyerk

24th-(Palm Sunday)Haley Schachermeyer

31st(Easter) Will Newell

Kathy Sowers MLF coordinator





Our annual Lenten Fair is going to be a SPRING FAIR this year. It will be on Friday, April 19th from 6-8 during the Little Lambs Art Show. If you can help, please let me know!!

Thank you! Kathy Sowers



Hi Everyone!!

I can't believe we are in the middle of the Lenten Season already!! Easter will be here before you know it. I am looking forward to the warmer weather, flowers in the church, and of course the Easter Breakfast!

Of course my focus right now is Jesus Christ and His journey to the cross for us. Perhaps you gave something up for Lent. I decided to read The STORY, Foreward by Max Lucado. I read it about 10 years ago during Lent. It's the Bible as a continuing story. We may even have a few copies around church. If you are interested let me know.

As always, if you would like to be involved in a ministry (or start one!) Come talk to me! I am here Mondays through Wednesdays.

Blessings, Kathy Sowers

Assimilation Director

New Beginnings News

Hello Everyone,

Our February outing was to Stoney Creek Roadhouse, eleven of us enjoyed dinner and shared a lot of laughs with each other and our server who was full of fun.

Our March outing will be serving a Wednesday night Lenten dinner at our church. The dinner we will be serving will be Wednesday, March 13th. If anyone would like to help, please let me know. I appreciate all the help you have given at our past dinners.

Reminder our group would welcome some new people. If you are a single man or women who would like to join us just let me know. We will enjoy having you.

You can reach me at 586-746-7547 if you have any questions.

Blessings, loyce Mason



Barb Pellegrino (Muellers' friend; cancer) **Frank Cody** (Margo Schuch's brother) **Mona Pfent** (Christin Peyerk's mom; cancer) **Tina Hayden** (Haydens' daughter-in-law; cancer) **Grace Angela Beachnau** (Mueller's granddaughter) Adam Bettcher (MS)

Carmen Ann Palma (Robert & Carolyn Meyer's great granddaughter) Dana Primeau (stage 4 colon cancer)

Andy Walgenbach (cancer treatment) Lillian Dodson (Sandy Huyck's mom)

Mary Reinhardt (Jim Reinhardt's mom)

Robin Meyer (Marian Schultz's sister-in-law)

Mike Beynan (Linda Martin's step-son in-law) Larry Feeback (recovery)

Ron Armstrong (waiting for a heart transplant) **Eric Johnston** (cancer)

Angelo Orlando (open-heart surgery recovery)

Gail Feeback (cancer) Matt Abel (cancer - Jean Dehnke's Son-in-law)

Linda Martin (shoulder surgery recovery)

Kevin Busch (heart procedure)

Sharon Brennecke (chronic pain) **Jessica Thom** (tumor surgery)

Cole Yahara (Jan & Walt Mueller's Grandson)

Fran Reinhardt (shoulder surgery recovery)

Andy Anderson (recovery) Mary Collins (recovery)

John McFarlane (back surgery) **Pastor Paul Burow** (hospitalized)

> Ben Schurig Luetta Brough (surgery)

OUR FRIENDS & FAMILY ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE ARMED FORCES:



Jim Pfahlert (Shaver Family) **Brad Morris Sean Duggan** (Bridget Felax's brother) FOR OUR MILITARY Nathan Kavanaugh (Kirsh family friend) New Life in Heaven Al Iensen





March Birthday Prayers

Sue Jackman	Logan Randall	Lanny Fruchey	Roger Neddermeyer
Diane Kerner	Leo Sander	Martin Wigley	Sarah Kowalewski
Janice Chapman	Larry Feeback	Hannah Korte	Michael Cardamone
Donna Steele	Jaclyn Wigley	Katie Draeger	Mary Collins
Tina Collins	Susan Shepherd	Daniel McIlhargey	George Rang, Jr.
Alaina Newell	Parker Newell	Jim Riske	Nichole Smiley
Andrea Randall	Pat Labinski	Debera Nemitz	Jeremy Paul
Connie Hayden	Heather Flynn	Joseph Kraatz	Marilyn Rang



March Anniversary Prayers

Scott & Maria Winter Rock & Cheryl Kuchenmeister Sr. Lee & Anna Newton

So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

Matthew 19:6

Please let the office know if your birthday or wedding anniversary is not included in these monthly lists! Thank you.