

# In Community

A monthly newsletter sharing the blessings, news and vision of Lockport Alliance Church

## LAC's Word of the Year for 2019: Intentional

It's been our practice, over the past few years, to choose a word at the beginning of each new year to serve as our Word of the Year. Last year's word was Faithful, which reminded us regularly of how faithful God is to us – and how He asks us to be faithful to Him in return.

A highlight of 2018 was our study on the life of Joseph in the Old Testament. What a great example of Joseph's faithfulness to God, despite a series of heart-breaking setbacks – and what a great example of God's faithfulness to Joseph, reminding us that He is working in our lives all the time, even when we don't know it.

For 2019 we have chosen the word Intentional.

"Intentional" is an adjective (descriptor word) that means, "done with intention or on purpose; intended." In baseball, a "walk" is issued to a batter when the pitcher misses the strike zone four times and throws four balls; an "intentional walk" is issued "on purpose" when the risk of putting the batter on first base is less than the risk of the potential damage that he could do if he were allowed to swing away.

In football, "intentional grounding" is a penalty called against a quarterback when he throws the ball away while he's still in the pocket and is about to be sacked. The quarterback

doesn't "just happen" to throw the ball away – he does it on purpose to try to avoid the sack, and it's a penalty in order to reward good defensive effort.

The idea of being intentional is doing things "on purpose, for a purpose." And most of the good things in life don't "just happen" by accident, do they?

A vibrant spiritual life doesn't "just happen" by accident; we have to be intentional about our daily spiritual habits and practices.

A thriving marriage doesn't "just happen" by accident; both partners have to be intentional about investing consistent energy in spending quality time together, not allowing the children to become the center of their lives, and dealing with conflict in a healthy way.

Strong friendships don't "just happen" by accident; they require being intentional about investing time and communication.

Losing weight and/or becoming more physically fit never "just happens" by accident, either. Nor does improving your golf swing, or



developing strong character, or learning a new skill, or overcoming a weakness, or breaking an addiction, or becoming a thriving church. We have to do things "on purpose" over a period of time. We have to be *intentional*.

We'll be talking a lot more about our new WOTY for 2019 as we move forward in this new year. Until then, be thinking about this: What area(s) of my life do I need to be more intentional about? What new "on purpose, by intention" practices or habits do I need to develop this year? And who can I talk to about helping me be accountable in those things?

Here's to a new year of being more *intentional* in all the important things that matter.

By: Kevin R. Robbins

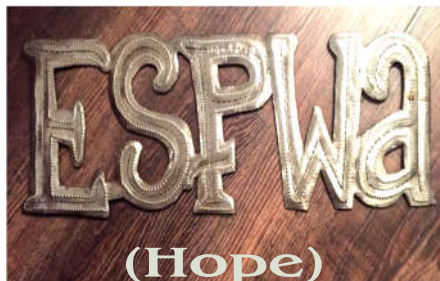
# Haiti Trip

Imagine with me a place that is among the poorest in the world. A place where many people live on about \$1 every day. A place where about half of the children attend school, a quarter complete fifth grade, and less than five percent graduate high school. The average life span is 62 years. The unemployment rate is 40 percent and only half of the people can read. It sounds like a hard place. Why would anyone ever want to go there?

The answer: hope. Haiti is a land a great struggle. Its people have faced seemingly insurmountable odds yet have proved resilient. LAC has sent a team of people three times and is planning on sending another team in **August 17-24, 2019**. We want to invite you along on the journey.

The team will go on an adventure to take the hope of the gospel to people by meeting real life physical needs. We will continue our partnership with Servants in Fellowship to go and build small homes for families that have next to nothing. As former team members can attest to, this trip is life changing. The impact will have ripple effects all over your life. You'll see unbelievably big smiles on faces of new homeowners, you'll see your faith grown in big ways. Simply, you will be different because you went. Your going may even impact those in your family or friendship circle in ways that only God understands – we've seen that time and time again! God has a funny way of using things that stretch us to grow us and make us more like himself.

The deadline to sign up is March 3rd, so prayerfully consider coming along on this journey with us. You won't regret it. For more information, please contact Pastor Alex.



# Volunteers Needed

If you love to work with little children, we can use your help! God has richly blessed us with young families and we would like to serve them well by providing safe, loving classrooms for the children.

We have needs in our Nursery and Pre-school Rooms on Sunday and for our MOPs program on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. Please let the office know if you are interested in volunteering on one of these rotating schedules by calling 433-3571 or circling C on the connection card on Sunday.


Come be a blessing and be blessed!



For the last few months we have been working with the New York State DMV to resolve some issues with paperwork regarding our church van.

What seemed to be a simple fix has proven to be more of a challenge. Our church van is currently "off the road" until we work out this problem. This has the potential to negatively impact some of our ministries - especially to our youth and seniors.

Please pray for favor and for a speedy resolution. Thanks!



**ILLUMINATE PRESENTS:**

**FEBRUARY TEACHING TOPICS:**

**FEBRUARY 6 - GUEST SPEAKER: ALAN CLASON**  
**FEBRUARY 13 - "SHAPED FOR SERVING GOD"**  
**FEBRUARY 20 - NO YOUTH GROUP - WINTER BREAK**  
**FEBRUARY 27 - "MADE FOR A MISSION"**

join us each week for fun games, snacks, chill time, worship or small groups, and some time in the word. bring your friends!



# Code Blue

As you may know, for these cold bitter days the homeless, as well as those in dire situations who find themselves without heat, have a place to go to escape the elements.

Code Blue held at the Salvation Army on Walnut St. in Lockport opens their doors on nights expected to be 15 degrees and below. With so many days of bitter cold upon us we are in desperate need of additional volunteers to help. 2 people are required for each shift: 8pm-midnight

| midnight-4am | 4am-8am. The shelter opens at 8 in the evening and closes at 8 in the morning the next day. Volunteer responsibilities include signing people in, locking the doors at the appropriate time, and being present to talk with and minister to anyone staying at the shelter.

If you would kindly consider volunteering during these situations please go to [www.thechapel.com/codeblue](http://www.thechapel.com/codeblue) for more information and to

sign up to serve. Someone will call you and be glad to walk through the process and answer any questions you may have. Our desire is to come together and serve this community well. We thank you for your grace and support for being there to



## KID'S CORNER

Lockport Alliance Church has scheduled a second **Plan to Protect** training for all LAC Children's Ministry Volunteers as well as any C&MA individual who works with those who may be vulnerable to abuse of any kind. On **March 9, 2019, from 9 am till Noon** LAC will hold this seminar titled **Protecting Those Who Can't Protect themselves**. Again, Lisa Vogan, CWM, Disciplemaking Specialist for our District, will train all attending on abuse awareness, protection, and prevention. Lisa has been certified as a National Trainer for **Plan to Protect** and has been hired by our District to present on this subject.

It is a blessing that our District sees the importance of having such extensive training to protect the vulnerable involved in our ministries as well as protect ourselves from any false allegations. It is required that all Children's Ministry volunteers attend this training, so please mark your calendars and make every effort to attend. If for some reason cannot make March 9 date, please inform Michelle Gendrue, [mtgendrue@gmail.com](mailto:mtgendrue@gmail.com) and please complete the online training at [plantoprotect.com](http://plantoprotect.com). Have the online training completed and a certificate to Michelle before March 9, 2019. Thank you!

**Plan To Attend**

# Plan to Protect™

**Protecting Those Who Can't Protect Themselves**

***For All Volunteers working with children!***

**Saturday, March 9**  
**9:00am - Noon**  
**Fellowship Hall**

LAC wants to be unified on the issue of safety for our vulnerable ones. Please plan to attend, especially those who were unable to make the October 2018 initial training!

Please contact Michelle Gendrue ([mtgendrue@gmail.com](mailto:mtgendrue@gmail.com)) or Alex Banks ([alexbanks10@gmail.com](mailto:alexbanks10@gmail.com)) with any questions.

# Elders Meeting Highlights

Highlights from the January 21<sup>st</sup> elders' meeting:

- Dave Rheam was welcomed back to the elder board for a new three-year term.
- The elders reviewed the “wins of the week” for December that were shared at weekly staff meetings. God has been on the move at LAC and it was a good year
- The elders chose the word INTENTIONAL as our church Word of the Year for 2019.
- Todd Richards will take the elder board seat on the Ministry Board for 2019 and Dave Rheam will serve as elder board secretary for 2019.
- The elders began their annual SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) for LAC. The church staff and the Ministry Board will also have opportunity to contribute to this conversation and analysis.
- The elders made adjustments to the church organizational chart (org chart) and clarified the “ministry leader check-in” process necessary to be overseers of LAC’s ministries.
- Several items were discussed on the elders’ list of “Things That Need to Be Fixed.” We are making forward progress in several areas. The elders will be working with the Facilities Team to prioritize projects on our campus in 2019.
- A membership interview with Tom & Becky Lattimer was conducted. The elders were encouraged to hear their story and were happy to welcome them back into membership at LAC.
- In light of a higher-than-expected requirement for our District Operating Budget (DOB) contribution for 2019, the previously-approved budget needed to be adjusted slightly as a result. The elders approved a final budget for 2019 of \$400,272, an increase of 4.5% over the 2018 budget.
- The elders discussed several items of a pastoral care/discipleship nature and spent time in prayer for one another and for numerous needs in the LAC

family. Several recommendations for help from the church Benevolent Fund were also discussed and acted upon.

- Pastor Alex updated the elders on the current status of the church van with the DMV. Because the van was initially titled as a “bus” rather than a passenger vehicle, Albany has required compliance with new draconian legislation regarding buses and limousines. An appeal has been filed and we are seeking to retitle the van appropriately; until then, the plates have been suspended and the van cannot be used by any groups.
- The elders were informed of the Ministry Board’s action to approve a new telephone system for the church

office. The new system should serve the staff well and also eliminate some frustrations with the current system’s lack of customer support.

- Attendance reports: Average Sunday morning worship attendance in December was 258 (high 294, low 189 on December 30); average LIFE Hour attendance in December was 113 (high 120, low 102 on December 30). Average weekly worship attendance for 2018 was 260; average weekly LIFE Hour attendance for 2018 was 94.
- The elders reviewed the upcoming calendar of events for February, March, and April and made changes where necessary.

**A VICTORIAN TEA**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28**

**6:30PM AT LOCKPORT ALLIANCE**  
**555 DAVISON ROAD, LOCKPORT**  
**433-3571**

**MAKE THIS AN EVENING TO REMEMBER!**

**FEEL FREE TO DRESS UP IN 1920'S STYLE (NOT MANDATORY)**

**SAMPLE SWEET TREATS AND ENJOY DELIGHTFUL SURPRISES**

**BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY BUT**  
**SEATING IS LIMITED, SO BE SURE TO SIGN UP**  
**AT THE WOMEN'S MINISTRY STATION**

*A FREE WILL OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN*



# GriefShare

Each day, someone is dealing with loss - in our community, in our church family, someone very close to you or even YOU. It could be a recent loss or a loss from some time ago that is affecting daily life. Maybe you aren't sure how to deal with or move past those feelings. Or maybe you want to know how to help someone who is experiencing grief. Grief Share can help!

GriefShare is a DVD video series that features top experts on grief recovery subjects and case studies of people who have been through the grief experience. It is also a place where people understand your hurts, emotions, and painful experiences! You'll learn practical information that will help you recover from the pain of grief and loss. The support group sessions include a time to talk about what you've seen on the GriefShare videos and what is going on in your life. And while you have the opportunity to tell your story, there's never pressure for you to do so if you don't feel like it.

The GriefShare program consists of 13 weekly sessions. We hope you will join us for the full program. However, as each session is "self-contained" you are welcome to begin attending the program at any point, or pick and choose those sessions that you find of particular interest or need. You will find encouragement and help whenever you attend. As Lockport Alliance will be running a new 13-week program each Fall and Spring, you are also welcome to continue attendance at the next scheduled event or join us for any sessions you may have missed or would like to revisit.

To better acquaint you with the program, here is a quick overview of the weekly session topics:

**Week One: Is This Normal?** - Discover why your grief journey may be harder than you imagined

**Week Two: Challenges of Grief** - Learn some of the common effects grief has on your mind, body, and spirit

**Week Three: The Journey of Grief (Part One)** - Learn helpful goals to set on your grief journey

**Week Four: The Journey of Grief (Part Two)** - Why it's important to put effort into your healing

**Week Five: Grief and Your Relationships** - How the death of a loved one affects your friendships

**Week Six: Why?** - What God has to say to you about your "why" questions

**Week Seven: Guilt and Anger** - How to handle grief-related anger

**Week Eight: Complicating Factors** - How your thinking affects your emotions

**Week Nine: Stuck** - Discover how to prevent getting stuck in grief

**Week Ten: Lessons of Grief (Part One)** - Often-overlooked reasons why grief is so painful

**Week Eleven: Lessons of Grief (Part**

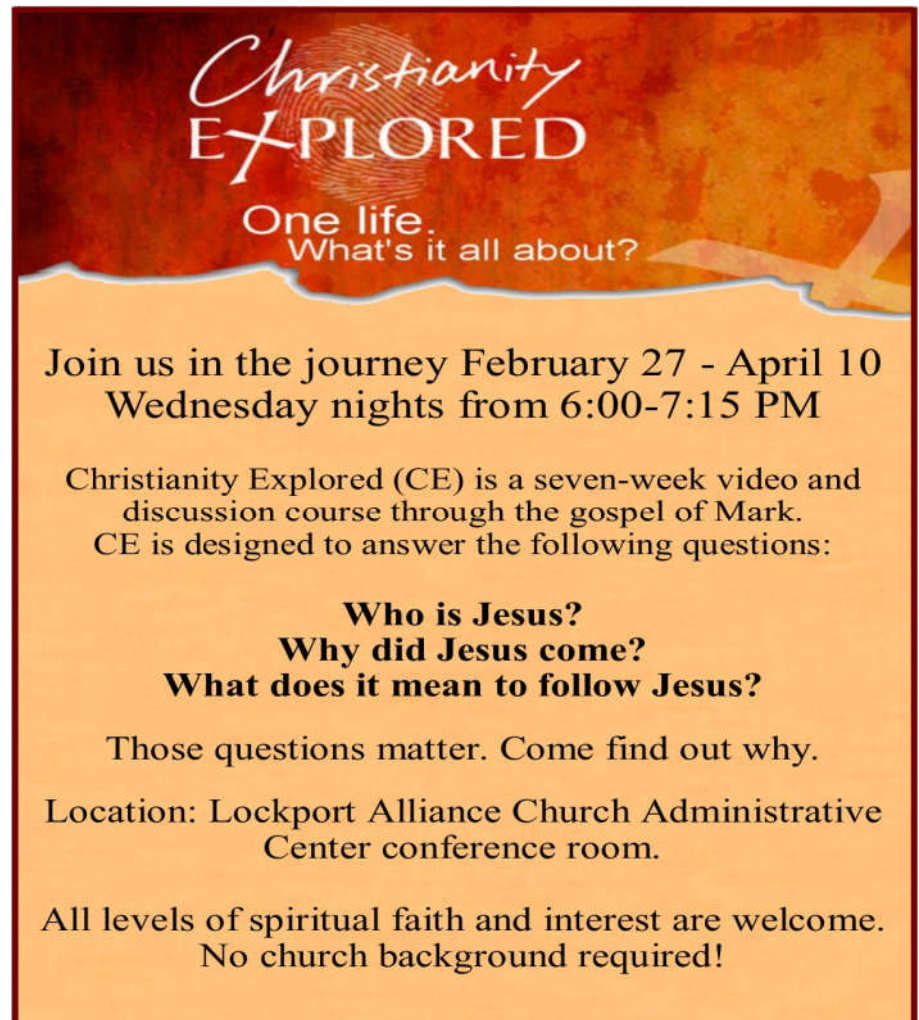
**Two)** - Who are you now that your loved one is gone

**Week Twelve: Heaven** - Answers questions about heaven and the afterlife, such as what heaven is like

**Week Thirteen: What Do I Live for Now?** - Learn why moving forward is a necessity

The next session of GriefShare will begin Tuesday, March 5 and run weekly through May 7. Our group meets in the Conference Room in the Admin Building from 6:30 to 8:00pm.

For more information on the GriefShare program, or how this program can help you minister to someone dealing with loss, please contact Kim Davidson at 213-7699



*Christianity*  
**EXPLORED**  
One life.  
What's it all about?

Join us in the journey February 27 - April 10  
Wednesday nights from 6:00-7:15 PM

Christianity Explored (CE) is a seven-week video and discussion course through the gospel of Mark. CE is designed to answer the following questions:

**Who is Jesus?  
Why did Jesus come?  
What does it mean to follow Jesus?**

Those questions matter. Come find out why.

Location: Lockport Alliance Church Administrative Center conference room.

All levels of spiritual faith and interest are welcome.  
No church background required!

# February & March Birthdays

## Birthdays for the month of

### February.....

Ashley Lewis	1
Samantha Grzebinski	4
Kim Lunden	5
Chris Blowers	6
Betty Schielke	7
Michael Ferraro	8
Matt Buri	10
Judy Hensal	11
Lillia Peace	12
Caleb Blowers	15
Diane Cooper	15
Cindy Roszman	16
Bob Billingsley	17
Victoria Richards	22
Carrie Hallock	24

### March ....

Mark Deleel	1
Hannah Shortridge	1
Helen Bil	3
Michael Sarhal	3
Steven Saraf	5
Isabella Zastrow	5
Jewel Myers	6
Scott Deluca	7
Dave Lewis	7
Taylor Ottaviano	7
Chris Brown	8
Ken Kirkman	8
Bryan Copperthite	9
Noah Colburn	10
Naomi Moore	10
Harry (Bud) Weist	12

Dale Means	13
Mandie Stahl	14
Carolyn Berner	15
Carol Forth	15
Eli Bancroft	17
Eva Hulse	17
Nina LaGreca	17
Alexa Bulmer	18
Lindsay Quay	23
Chic Bigelow	26
Nicholl Brewer	26
Matthew Rheam	27
Christian Richards	27
Ethan Saraf	28
Christine Blowers	29
Walt Keller	30
Melissa Mayers	30



## February & March Anniversaries

### Happy Anniversary for the month of

#### February.....

Harry & Diane Weist	2
Glenn & Ruby Baum	14
Ed & Michelle Gawel	15
Ray, Sr. & Dottie Kline	22
Don & Linda Nelson	28

#### March.....

Charles & Eleanor Kephart	23
Ron & Debbi Handley	30

## February Events

- 3-10 Missions Week
- 3 LIFE Hour with Alan Cason
- 3 YG Big Game Party
- 5 YAH Missions Luncheon
- 6 MOPS
- 8 Big Group Meeting (all welcome)
- 9 Men's Missions Breakfast
- 9 Women's Missions Luncheon
- 10 Judy Button speaks about her parents
- 12 YAH Bible Study
- 13 MOPs Bible Study
- 17 Baby Shower for Lindsay Quay
- 25 Tea Cup Matching
- 26 YAH Bible Study
- 28 Victorian Tea

To find out if Services or Events are canceled due to weather, please use the following resources for notification:

TV Stations - WGRZ - 2; WIVB - 4; WKBW - 7

LAC Website -  
[www.lockportalliance.org](http://www.lockportalliance.org)

LAC Facebook pages

The Remind Apps for Youth & Men



## Prayer Teams

Prayer teams meet every Sunday during the worship service to pray for the worship service, the ministries of LAC and other needs.

If you would like to be a part of this very important and rewarding ministry, call the church office, (433-3571).

### February Prayer teams:

3	Team 2
10	Team 3
17	Team 4
24	Team 5

## Financial Update

January 27, 2019

### GREAT COMMISSION FUND

2019 Goal	\$ 65,000
Goal to Date	\$ 5,000
Received to Date	\$ 3,256

### GENERAL FUND

2019 Goal	\$400,272
Goal to Date	\$ 30,790
Received to Date	\$ 25,948
Expenses to Date	\$30,004

## “Top Ten” Prayer Requests

- Pray about LAC’s “Word of the Year” for 2019: [Intentional]
- Pray for a strong start financially to the new year after an encouraging year in 2018.
- Pray for our church vision sermon series in January.
- Pray for a new “School of Prayer” concept Wednesday nights on January 9, 16, 23 & 30.
- Pray for our next scheduled Christianity Explored (CE) course in February.
- Pray for our missions conference February 3-10 with Alan (Philip) Clason (France) and our own Judy Button (February 10) and an even stronger year of giving to the Great Commission Fund in 2019.
- Pray for wisdom for the elders in shaping vision, strategy and decisions for 2019.
- Pray for our children’s ministries outreach: the winter months are often a peak time for AWANA on Wednesday nights; 11<sup>th</sup> annual Egg-Stravaganza outreach TBA.
- Pray for continued traction and impact through men’s and women’s ministry events.
- Pray for our outreach to our community and for conversion growth (salvations) leading up to Easter weekend April 19-21.

## Ministry Positions

2019

### Elders

Mike Gendrué  
Dave McLaughlin  
Dave Rheam  
\*Todd Richards (Chairman)

### NYS Trustees

Alex Banks  
Kevin Robbins  
Mike Gendrué

### Deacons

\* Ken Moore, Jr. (Chairman)  
Ray Kline, Sr.  
Bob Davidson  
Steve Saraf

### \*Ministry Board Secretary

Christine Blowers

### \*Treasurer/Missions Treasurer

Denise Walker

### \*Assistant Treasurer

Lynda Rose

### \* Deaconess/Women’s Representative

Beth Hensal

### \* Youth Ministry Representative

Alex Banks

### Facilities Team

\*Walt Keller (Chairman)  
Chic Bigelow  
Craig Blowers  
Paul Buri  
David McLaughlin  
Adam Raetz  
Mike Revekant  
Josh Smith  
Jason Walling

### \*Min. Board Members at Large

Kim Davidson  
Chris Brown

### \*Children’s Coordinator

Michelle Gendrué

### Great Commission Women President

Marcia Keller

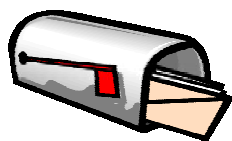
### Deaconesses

Nora Bruning (Chairperson)  
Beth Hensal  
Darcee Hughes  
Lynda Rose  
Arlene Sluyter

### 2019 Nominating Committee

Bevin Lambert Howard Bruning  
Ken Kirkman Beth Hensal

\* Serves on the Ministry Board



### Attention Ministry Leaders

Please be sure to check your box.  
New items are added each week.

Ministry Leaders have mailboxes located in the foyer.  
If you have any correspondence for ministry leaders  
you are encouraged to leave it in their mailboxes.