

NEWS FROM Legislator

Lou D'Amaro



SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE
17th Legislative District
130 West Jericho Turnpike
Huntington Station, NY 11746
Tel: (631) 854-4433
Fax: (631) 854-4415
Lou.Damaro@suffolkcountyny.gov



COMMITTEES:
CHAIR– Budget & Finance
VICE CHAIR – Environment,
Planning & Agriculture
Human Services
Public Safety

For Immediate Release
Contact: Karen Klafter (631) 854-4433

Deer Park Pastor Opens Suffolk Legislature Meeting



Pastor Justin Lathrop (right) of Ascension Lutheran Church in Deer Park was recently invited by Legislator D'Amaro to open the Legislature's General Session with a non-denominational prayer

(HAUPPAUGE, NY... May 14, 2012) – Encouraging “understanding, council, strength, courage, patience and conviction,” Pastor Justin C. Lathrop of the Ascension Lutheran Church in Deer Park opened the Suffolk County Legislature’s May 8th general session with an uplifting and universally-appealing non-denominational invocation. Legislator Lou D’Amaro (D-Huntington Station) invited Pastor Lathrop to represent his Legislative District before the

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entire Legislature and other guests in attendance at the William H. Rogers Legislative Building in Hauppauge.

The Ascension Lutheran Church in Deer Park was established in 1954 and is one of the largest Lutheran Churches in New York.

After receiving a B.A. in Religion and Philosophy from Roanoke College and a Master of Divinity from the Lutheran Theological Center in Philadelphia, Pastor Lathrop was accepted into an international internship that sent him to Slovakia to serve as a professor of Early Church History and Chaplain at a Lutheran High School. Upon returning to the United States from Slovakia more than a decade ago, he completed an internship at the Deer Park Church leading up to his ordination. Following his ordination, he served as Pastor at Lutheran Churches in Maryland and Virginia. Two years ago, he accepted a call as Senior Pastor of the Ascension Lutheran Church of Deer Park and was delighted for the opportunity to return to the community. He and his wife, Jennifer, have two daughters.

"Pastor Lathrop is an outstanding and charismatic spiritual leader who spreads words of peace and cooperation that transcend all religions and beliefs," said Legislator D'Amaro. "I thank him for sharing his moving message with the Legislature."

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Suffolk County Legislator Lou D'Amaro (D-Huntington Station) represents the 17th Legislative District, which includes parts of Huntington Station, South Huntington, Huntington, West Hills, Melville, Dix Hills, Deer Park, North Babylon and West Babylon. He is Chairman of the Budget & Finance committee, Vice-Chairman of the Environment, Planning & Agriculture committee, and a member of the Human Services and Public Safety committees of the Suffolk County Legislature.