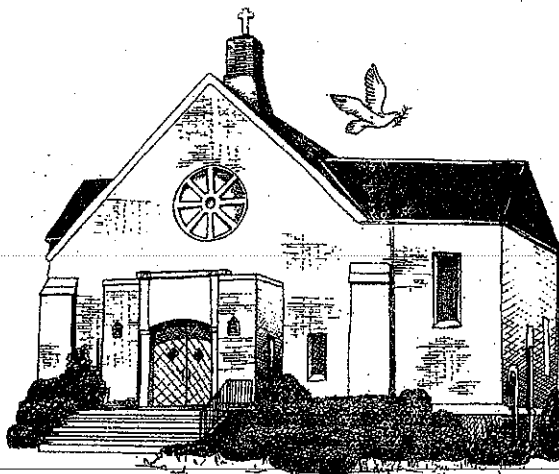


# The Salem Dove



**DECEMBER 2010 – JANUARY 2011**

## From the Pastor...

The lessons associated with the Advent season speak a powerful message to us, a message of hope, something which the world is desperate to hear. Listen again to just one of them, Isaiah 40:1-5....

“<sup>1</sup> Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup> A voice of one calling: ‘In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD<sup>l</sup>; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.<sup>l</sup> <sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. <sup>5</sup> And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.’ ”

Isaiah, as you may know, was one of the great prophets of the Old Testament. When he was called to preach, he complained to God that he didn’t know what to say to the world. “What shall I cry?” he asked. These were bad times for the people of Israel. For fifty years they had been living in captivity, carried off to Babylon.

There they were a despised people, disgruntled, dismayed, discouraged. God called Isaiah, in the midst of these bad times, to preach some good news!

What God told Isaiah to preach was this: “Comfort my people!” Speak tenderly to Jerusalem. Cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned. Then a voice: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”

You need to understand the historical background, and just how bad these times were for the Jews, if you’re going to realize how GOOD this news was that God gave Isaiah to broadcast. It was good news, first of all, because it spoke of mercy, of forgiveness for sins. Before captivity, the Jews had become a largely faithless people, worshiping false gods. They had practiced injustice and engaged in immorality. They had, as a result, paid a high price for their sins. They were in captivity in a foreign land, compelled to serve as slaves to a hated enemy! God told the Israelites through Isaiah that their sins had now been pardoned. This was tremendously good news to people suffering. It was good news for dark times, for bad times!

(con’t on page 2)

Salem Lutheran Church

10 McClellan Circle - Buffalo, New York 14220

Rev. John L. Pingel, Pastor

Vicar Domenick Lettieri

Lois L. Jones, Director of Music

Ernelle L. Ponivas, Secretary

Stephen Jarmusz Sr., Custodian

Claire Carlson, ‘Dove’ Editor

Rev. Richard Blemaster, Pastor Emeritus

e-mail: [salemoncircle@yahoo.com](mailto:salemoncircle@yahoo.com) website: [www.salembuffalo.com](http://www.salembuffalo.com)

† † † **Mission: SALEM/Peace - As the Father sent me I send you.**  
**Vision: Preach – Teach – Heal – doing what Jesus does**

† † †

(con't. from page 1)

God also told Isaiah to preach: "In the wilderness prepared a highway for our God." This was a great comfort to them because it gave them hope. It meant that God was coming to save them, to gather his people as a shepherd gathers his flock. He was "on the way" to help them, to bring an end to these terrible, dark days.

Now, let's translate this message into our day and age. It has become common knowledge that the Christmas season is a time for increased suicide and wide spread depression. Why is that? Perhaps Christmas has become, for many, a brightly colored package with nothing inside. Perhaps the message of hope, which is at the heart of Christmas, needs to be trumpeted again! People need to know that the whole point of Christmas is not the gifts, or the red candles, or the bells, or tinsel laden trees--but the good news of a God who comes to share in our suffering; who didn't deny our dark reality but instead entered into our human predicament. He died on a cross and rose again, and now call out to us: "I am the way. Follow me."

"Speak tenderly" says Isaiah. "Speak tenderly to the people." Tell them that their sins are pardoned. Good news for dark days. God forgives us our sins through Christ. "Prepare a highway for our God." We are not alone in the world, and on our pilgrimage through life. God comes to us not only to redeem, but to comfort and to guide. When we are feeling confused, or lonely, or afraid--when we see no way out--whatever "Babylonian Captivity" we find ourselves in--God is with us.

When times are bad, we tend to lost hope. So it was with the ancient Israelites. So it is, at times, for us! Is there a basis for hope in our time? The ancient words of the prophet ring out once again across the snow: ""Behold your God!" God is greater than our sins and our problems. We can live in hope today because God is in our midst and on our side. With God, there is no such thing as a hopeless situation.

*Pastor John Pingel*

## **CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**December 19<sup>th</sup> – Sunday School Pageant – 9:30 am**

**December 19<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Family Potluck Dinner – 5 pm**

**December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve Worship – 8 pm**

**December 26<sup>th</sup> – Worship Service – 9:30 am**

**December 31<sup>st</sup> – New Year's Eve Service with Holy Communion – 7 pm**

**January 2<sup>nd</sup> – Worship Service – 9:30 pm**



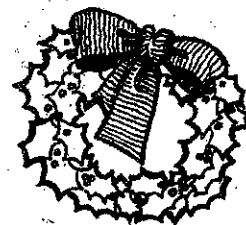
### **Advent Midweek Services**

**"The Stars Tell the Story"**

**Wednesday evening schedule: 6: pm – Soup & Sandwich**

**7:15 pm – Hymn Sing**


**7:30 pm - Worship Service**



**Dec. 1 – St. Luke, Cheektowaga, Dec. 8 –Holy Cross, Clarence  
Dec. 15 – Salem**

# WORSHIP

The Worship Committee has developed a page for the DOVE that will communicate to the congregation the themes, liturgies, sermon texts and titles and other points of worship. (LW = Lutheran Worship TLH = The Lutheran Hymnal WOV = With One Voice SH = Supplemental Hymnal) Hymns and liturgy are being chosen by Pastor, the Music Director, and the Worship Committee. Comments are invited for future growth.

SUNDAY	LITURGY	1st Hymn	Sermon Hymn	Communion Hymns	Last Hymn	Theme for this Day
Dec. 5 2nd Sunday in Advent (blue/purple)	Holy Communion	LW 34 "Come, O Precious Ransom"	LW 14 "On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry"	LW 19 "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" v.1-4; SH 54 "Into My Heart," SH 64 "Seek Ye First"	LW 22 "Come, O Long-Expected Jesus" Tune: Hyfydol	Join The Baptist
Dec. 12 3rd Sunday in Advent (blue/purple)	Holy Communion	LW 29 "Hard the Glad Sound"	LW 53 "Joy to the World"	SH 91 "In the Bleak," SH 93 "I Wonder As I Wander," SH 94 "Joyful, Joyful"	LW 31 "Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel" v.1, 5,6,7	Joy at Christ's Coming
Dec. 19 4th Sunday in Advent (blue/purple)	Sunday School Christmas Program	Hymns as noted in Sunday School Program				Children's Program
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve (white)	Lessons/Carols	LW 41 "Oh Come, All Ye Faithful," LW 49 "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"	LW 60 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" LW 55 "Angels We Have Heard on High"	LW 62 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"	LW 68 "Silent Night" LW 53 "Joy to the World"	The Incarnation
Dec. 26 1st Sunday after Christmas (white)	LW 158	LW 49 "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"	LW 57 "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"		LW 42 "Let Us All With Gladsome Voice"	Keeping Christmas
Dec. 31 (7 pm)	Special Liturgy	LW 180 "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"	LW "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"		LW 494 "We Praise You, O God"	God's Protection & Guidance
Jan. 2 - 2nd Sunday after Christmas (white)	Holy Communion	LW 182 "Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love"	LW 36 "Of the Father's Love Begotten"	LW 56 "I Am So Glad Each Christmas," SH 13 "His Name Is Wonderful," SH 7 "Emmanuel"	LW 220 "Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer"	The Boy Jesus
Jan. 9 - 1st Sunday after Epiphany (white)	The Baptism of Our Lord LW 158	LW 75 "As With Gladness Men of Old"	LW 74 "From God the Father, Virgin Born"		LW 77 "The People That in Darkness Sat"	Baptism of Jesus
Jan. 16 - 2nd Sunday after Epiphany (green)	Holy Communion	LW 88 "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"	LW 81 "When Christ's Appearing Was Made Known"	WP 33 "Come to the Table"; SH 13 "His Name is Wonderful"; SH 90 "I'd Rather Have Jesus"	LW 218 "Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing"	First Miracle of Christ
Jan. 23 - 3rd Sunday after Epiphany (green)	LW 158	LW 312 "Jesus Shall Reign"	LW 321 "Spread the Reign of God the Lord"		LW 221 "Savior, Again to Your Dear Name"	Missions
Jan. 30 - 4th Sunday after Epiphany (green)	LW 158	LW 317 "God, Whose Almighty Word"	LW 311 "Lift High the Cross"		LW 440 "From All That Dwell Below the Skies"	Missions

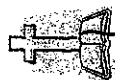
## SEE THROUGH SCRIPTURES

led by Pastor Pingel

Tuesdays from 7-8:15 pm

beginning January 11<sup>th</sup> 2011

(Class will not meet on the first Tuesday of the month due to Church Council meeting.)





## MEETINGS (con't.)

### SCRAPBOOKING CLUB

The next Scrapbooking club meeting will be Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup> 2011 beginning at 6 pm. Please join us for fun and fellowship while working on our scrapbooks. We are going to start meeting on the third Thursday of the month beginning with the New Year. If you have any questions, please contact Joanne Kushka or Claire Carlson.

### LEADERSHIP CHRISTCARE GROUP

The Leadership/ Spiritual Growth Group will be meeting on Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010 and Thursday, January 6<sup>th</sup> 2011 at 6:30 pm. This group is led by Jim Carr.

### GOLDEN AGERS

On November 4, 2010, Salem Golden Agers celebrated their 37<sup>th</sup> birthday at Curly's Restaurant. There were 37 people in attendance and a good time was had by all.

#### Upcoming Event

Saturday, December 11, 2010 - Review of the Nativity Scenes at St. Columbia/ St. Bridget Church in Buffalo. We will also travel to the Chapel at Crosspoint to see The Christmas Story. Dinner will be at Salvatore's Italian Gardens.

There is no meeting in January.

The next meeting will be February 3, 2011 at 12 Noon. Please come and join us. Dessert and coffee is provided.

*Jean Pontwas, Secretary*

Please remember the deadline for the February issue of the Dove and for the February calendar will be January 16<sup>th</sup> 2011. Articles for the Dove may be placed in my basket in the church secretary's office or email to **patchtroop546@aol.com**. Thank you. *Claire Carlson*

THE BALANCE IN CURRENT AS OF, OCTOBER 31, 2010 IS A SURPLUS OF \$11,640.92. *Nancy Thomas, Treasurer*



## REMINDER

When a member of the family is in the hospital, or in need of pastoral counsel or care, PLEASE phone Ernelle at the Salem church office, 824-2787 or contact Pastor Pingel at 825-3253 (parsonage) or 1-724-494-9486 (cell) or Vicar Domenick Lettieri at 525-1044 (home) or 392-1148 (cell). Family members are asked to please inform the church office and/or Pastor when a member of Salem is released from the hospital and/or goes to a rehab center. Thank you!

### DISASTER SHELTER NEWS

The Men's Group Disaster Shelter needs donations. Please no expired or short dated items.

The following is a list of items needed:

- \*Powdered milk
- \*Shampoo
- \*Canned tuna & other meat
- Toothpaste
- \*Canned fruit & vegetables
- Kool-Aid
- \*Soups
- \*Powdered creamer
- Mayonnaise
- \*Canned potatoes
- Noodles
- Elbow macaroni

All items in our pantry are rotated according to expiration date. Anything close to expiring is then taken to the South Buffalo Community Table. There is a bin at the top of the stairs for donations.

Please note that asterisked items have the longest shelf life. Thank you for your support. *Ken Kushka*

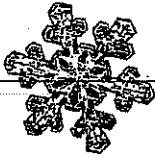
### ROAST BEEF DINNER

Our Roast Beef Dinner on October 20<sup>th</sup> 2010 raised \$2,596 for our seven members who are battling cancer. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans matched these funds dollar for dollar making the grand total \$5,192. We thank Thrivent and all who helped in any way. *Fred Bartz Jr.*

### LECTORS, USHERS AND COUNTERS NEEDED

We are in need of more people to be lectors, ushers and counters on Sundays. There is a signup sheet in the upper hall, or see newly elected Deacon Fred Bartz.

# CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK



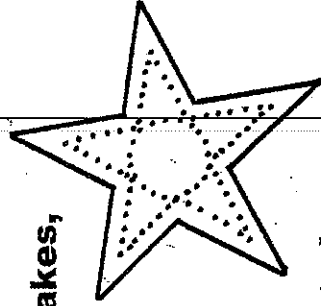
Sunday, December 12, 2010  
During Coffee Hour

Your choice of cookies to fill 1 qt. baggie  
\$4.00



Bring 3 Dozen of Your Favorite Christmas Cookie  
and Take Home a Variety

Cut-outs, Mexican Wedding Cakes,  
Thumbprints, Macaroons,  
Snickerdoodles,  
Filled Cookies  
and many more!



Sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans  
Proceeds to benefit future projects


# PANCAKE BRUNCH

Sunday, January 9, 2011  
11:00 a.m. to 12:30

- pancakes (all you can eat!)
- potato pancakes
- sausage or bacon
- fresh fruit
- juice
- coffee, tea, milk



Adults: \$5.50    Ages 5-12: \$2.50

 Thrivent Financial for Lutherans™

## **CHURCH RECORDS**

**FUNERALS:** Valerie Fullone, died October 25, 2010 at the age of 57 years, 9 months, 25 days; Funeral: October 29, 2010 at Lakeside Memorial Funeral Home, Hamburg by Pastor Pingel; Burial: St. Peter and Paul Cemetery, Hamburg.

Joseph Wrobel, died October 22, 2010 at the age of 65 years, 3 months, 16 days; Funeral: October 25, 2010 at Buszka Funeral Home, Buffalo by Pastor Fehskens from Faith Lutheran Church, Elma; Burial: St. Stanislaus Cemetery, Cheektowaga.

Lynn Leahy, died November 4, 2010 at the age of 44 years, 9 months, 20 days; Funeral: November 8, 2010 at Salem by Pastor Pingel; Burial: Lakeside Cemetery, Hamburg.

## **POTLUCK CORNER**

### **Casserole with a Secret**

1 can of tuna, chicken, lobster or shrimp  
1 can Durkee O&C Real French Fried Onions  
(the secret)  
¾ c. celery thinly sliced lengthwise  
¼ c. green peppers thinly sliced  
1 can or fresh mushrooms (6 oz.)  
1 can condensed cream of celery soup (10½ oz.)  
Combine ½ can of French Fried Onions  
with all the ingredients. Placed in a greased  
casserole dish. Bake at 350° for 25 minutes.  
Sprinkle remaining onions on top. Bake 5  
minutes longer. Serves 4.

(I usually use a whole chicken breast boned.)  
(I also add a dash of garlic.) *Gloria Pfohl*

## **MS CHALLENGE WALK**

Our church secretary, Ernelle Ponivas' daughter, Sarah has had MS for about six years and is currently in remission. Sarah and her sister Anne Kasmier will again participate in the MS Challenge Walk in Charleston, South Carolina from March 4-6, 2011 and will gladly accept donations to support this cause. Each participant's goal is to reach \$1,500 in donations.

Ernelle, her children and grandchildren will be attending this event in Charleston. Ernelle had a rewarding experience when she attended last year's event along with Linda Poniwias and Lyle Everard.

Donations may be given to Ernelle Ponivas and call her at the church office at 824-2787 with any questions. *Thank you for all your consideration in supporting MS Research. Ernelle Ponivas*

# **SALEM'S CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS DINNER**



Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>

5 pm

Spiral cut ham and  
beverages will be provided.  
Bring a side dish, salad or  
dessert to share!!!

Also bring the extended family,  
friends and neighbors for our  
most festive dinner of the year!

A short program will  
follow the dinner.

**Come one – come all!**

## **THE NATIVITY IN WORD AND SONG**

Lutheran Chorale of the Niagara Frontier  
Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> 2010  
7:30 pm

St. Luke Lutheran Church, Cheektowaga  
Tickets: \$12 Adults; \$10 Seniors & Students

*For more information, call 649-2662*





**BLESSED CHRISTMAS  
AND NEW YEAR**

**from Pastor John Pingel  
Ernelle Ponivas (secretary)  
Lois Jones (organist)  
Steve Jarmusz Sr. (custodian)**

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Council Corner**

TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS WHEN ALL THROUGH THE EARTH MANKIND WAS AWAITING THE GOOD SAVIOR'S BIRTH. THE CHRIST CHILD WAS PLACED ON THE MANTLE WITH CARE IN HOPES HIS BLESSINGS WOULD SHINE EVERYWHERE. THE CHILDREN WERE NESTLED ALL SNUG IN THEIR BED; THEIR COOKIES BAKED AND THEIR EVENING PRAYERS SAID. MAMA IN THE KITCHEN AND DAD AT THE TREE, MADE A WONDERFUL, COMFORTING PICTURE TO SEE. WHEN OUT ON THE LAWN THERE AROSE SUCH A SOUND THE TWO OF THEM RAN TO SEE WHO WAS AROUND. THE STAR WAS SO BRIGHT AS IT SHONE FROM ON HIGH.

IT LIT UP WITH SPLENDOR THE WHOLE EVENING SKY. AND OUT ON THE LAWN WHERE SHOW SOFTLY LAY, WAS A TINY NEW BABE, ASLEEP IN THE HAY. A GENTLE YOUNG COUPLE KNELT PRAYING NEARBY AND SONGS FROM THE ANGELS FILLED THE NIGHT SKY. MAMA WAS ASTOUNDED AND DAD WAS AMAZED AS ON THE BRIGHT SCENE THE TWO OF THEM GAZED. THEN ON THEIR KNEES THEY BOTH FELL WITH JOY TO WELCOME THE BIRTH OF THE NEW BABY BOY. AS THEY LOOKED ON THE SCENE, IT MELTED AWAY ---- THE COUPLE, THE ANGELS, THE CRIB WHERE CHRIST LAY. NOW PEOPLE TELL THEM TWAS ONLY A DREAM AND COULDN'T HAVE BEEN AT ALL WHAT IT SEEMED. BUT THEY ONLY SMILE, FOR THEY KNOW INSIDE, THEY KNOW THE SPIRIT OF THE REAL CHRISTMASTIDE.

*AUTHOR UNKNOWN*

The Council wishes all of the church families and friends, the most Blessed Christmas and a fruitful New Year. God bless you all. *Paul Thomas, Church Council President*

**CHRISTMAS CARD FOOD PROGRAM**

Instead of mailing your Christmas cards to church members, use the church mailboxes and donate the money you save on postage to me. That money will be used to shop for food for needy families in our congregation and in the neighborhood. This is done in complete confidentiality. The only people that know who receives the food are myself and my "elves" that deliver the food. Of course, even if you prefer not to send cards this year, donations are always welcome. About 12 years ago, I felt that God led me to this undertaking. It has grown over the years thanks to all of the generous people at Salem. What started as a small project of love, has turned into a great outreach program. God bless you all for your help.

*Joanne Kushka*

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**2011 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Those who wish to receive 2011 Offering Envelopes and have not been assigned a number, please call the church office at 824-2787. 2011 envelopes will not be given to those who did not pick up their 2010 envelopes.

*Ernelle Ponivas*

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**SALEM NOVEMBER ELECTIONS**

The following were elected to the Church Council at the November 14<sup>TH</sup> 2010 Voters' Meeting for three years terms: Deacon – Fred Bartz Jr.; Secretary – Claire Carlson (reelected); Board of Christian Education Chair – Norrine Nagel; Youth Chair – Darlene LaPenna (reelected). We thank Ken Kushka as Deacon and Deann Sheppard as Board of Christian Education Chair for their years of service.

**CHURCH DECORATING**

Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> 2010  
10 am

Please come and help decorate our church for Christmas.

*Fred Bartz*

**DIRECTORY CHANGES**

Ryan Carr, 319 South Market St., P.O. Box 569,  
New Wilmington, PA 16172  
Peggy Herr, 188 Ash St., Lockport, NY 14094  
Kelly Kohr, 52 Aldrich Ave., Upper, Buffalo, NY  
14220

## STEPHEN MINISTRIES

### The Missional Value of Christian Care

By David A. Paap (Program Director for  
Stephen Ministries)



#### Part 2:

#### Capitalizing on Common, Untapped Gifts

Perhaps the greatest stumbling block to providing quality Christian care is thinking the pastor needs to be the only one who provides it. The good news is that, if your congregation is like most, there are a great number of people who have gifts such as mercy, encouragement, and helping. With the right kind of training and organization, lay people can provide very high-quality Christian care for people who are hurting or suffering. That's what the Stephen Series has been doing in thousands of congregations for more than 25 years—equipping laypeople who are called Stephen Ministers to use their God-given gifts to make a significant difference in the lives of hurting people in their congregation and community.

Involving gifted laypeople in caring ministry meets two of the four needs in a powerful way. People who are hurting receive the focused, one-to-one, Christ-centered care they need during a time of crisis. The lay caregivers also experience personal satisfaction and spiritual growth because they're using their gifts in meaningful ministry—they're serving God and others while doing something they deeply enjoy.

Pastors benefit, too, because they don't have to bear the burden of caring ministry on their own. Pastors can continue to be involved in providing care in certain instances, but now they have a team of gifted, trained, passionate laypeople providing the largest slice of congregation care.

First, these lay caregivers are very well trained. Pastors who lead Stephen Ministry often say that their Stephen Ministers receive much better training in caregiving than the seminary ever provided. Training Stephen Ministers also is a very leveraged activity—for the Stephen Ministers and for the trainers. Stephen Ministers regularly describe their training as life changing. The pastors and other leaders who conduct the training are preparing a class of 10, 15, or more lay caregivers in much less time than it would take to personally mentor one person to the same level by bringing him or her along on pastoral visits. Lay leaders can conduct most or all of the training. Knowing that he can count on such effective lay caregivers frees the pastor to focus on other vital leadership functions.

**Reaching Hurting People** One reason mission-minded congregations are often reluctant even to talk about congregation care is because it can be seen as a trap, turning inward to focus on internal maintenance, meeting only the needs of members. This is indeed true when caregivers are limited to pastors and church staff—the sheer volume of needs within a congregation can quickly consume all their available time. But when a congregation has a well-organized team of 10, 20, 30, 40, or even 50 or more lay caregivers, Christian caregiving can become a powerful outreach to hurting people in the community. People are never more likely to be open to the Gospel or to connect with a Christian congregation than when they are suffering. Caring laypeople bear a powerful witness to the love and compassion of Christ through their compassionate

(con't. next column)

(con't. from previous column)

interaction with those who are hurting. St. Francis said, "Preach the Gospel at all times; when necessary, use words." Stephen Ministers, through their quiet ministry, preach the Gospel—sometimes even using words. In his book *The Rise of Christianity*, Rodney Stark asserts that compassionate Christian care was one of the major forces behind the explosive growth of Christianity, especially as two devastating epidemics swept through the Roman Empire in the second and third centuries.

While pagans—even pagan physicians—tended to flee the sick in order to avoid being afflicted, Christians provided care for the suffering people around them whether they were Christian or pagan. The survival rates among those who received even elementary nursing care were significantly higher than among those who received no care. And of course the pagans who received care from Christians were much more likely to take an interest in knowing Jesus.

What epidemics plague our world? Loneliness? Meaninglessness? Poverty, homelessness, and despair? The care ministries of your congregation can bring Christ's care where others are unable or unwilling to make a difference; it can be a significant part of your overall mission strategy. Congregations that have effective care ministries are well positioned to bring people who are hurting to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

**The Genius of the AND** In his book *Built to Last*, Jim Collins says: The "Tyranny of the OR" pushes people to believe that things must be either A OR B, but not both. Instead of being oppressed by the "Tyranny of the OR," highly visionary companies liberate themselves with the "Genius of the AND"—the ability to embrace both extremes of a number of dimensions at the same time. Instead of choosing between A OR B, they figure out a way to have both A AND B.

Missional congregations should not fool themselves into thinking that they can do either mission or caregiving; that they can be either outward focused or inward focused. Missional congregations must do BOTH. In fact, they must focus on service AND care AND spirituality AND community.

**Incarnating the Love of Jesus** Whatever else the church is called to be, it is most certainly called to be Jesus' expression of love and compassion to the world. Providing care for hurting people is not an option, but an opportunity, because sometimes we are the only glimpse of Jesus some people will ever see.

**For more information about Salem's Stephen Ministry contact Rich Landseadel at 822-9695.**

### Bible Classes

Sunday Mornings at 10:45 am

Bible Class led by Pastor or Vicar Dom

Tuesday Afternoons at 1 pm

Leader: Sally McAlpine

Wednesday evening class is going on hiatus so members may attend Pastor's class.

Thursday Mornings at 9:30 am

Leader: Ruth Carr



# Sunday School News

Sunday School is, at its heart, about teaching God's WORD --> that is our greatest asset. Where can God's children get to know Him better than in His house? Jesus acknowledged this in His youth when He told His earthly parents that He had to be in His Father's house, about His Father's business (Luke 2:49).

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from the Salem Sunday School Staff*

## **Sunday School Advent Projects**

As our Advent project, Sunday School will be collecting canned goods, hats, scarves, gloves and/or socks. Please bring your items to church from November 28th thru December 19th



**Also remember to take a moment at dinner or a bed time to have your child add a coin to their Advent folder and say a short prayer with them.**



**Please return the folders to Sunday School when you come to church at Christmas.**

## **Reminders:**

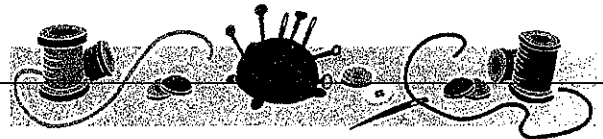
**There will be Sunday School on Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup> and January 2nd.**

**Please be sure your child's Sunday School Teacher has a contact number for you in the event we need to cancel Sunday School due to weather.**

## **Christmas Pageant - December 19<sup>th</sup>**



**Stay for birthday cake and coffee after service.**



## **Can you sew?**



**Sunday School is looking to replace our aging Pageant costumes over the course of the next year.**

**There is however an immediate need for some angel costumes for this year's pageant.**

**If you can sew and would like to volunteer to help us with this project please contact Monica Thomas, Sunday School Superintendent.**







## ADVENT COIN FOLDERS



These were put in your mailboxes for your use during the Advent season. Please insert them in the reminder envelopes. If family members of the household need more reminder envelopes, they can be found on the table near the mail slots or call the church office to have them put in your mail slot.

Please return your coin folders at one of the Christmas services or at the December 12 or 19 worship services. Deposit them in the special box in the narthex, rather than in the offering plate because of bulk. All monies received in these folders will be used for various charities listed in our budget. Also note that all Christmas festival envelopes will automatically go to Current, unless marked otherwise.

*Ernelle Ponivas*

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## BOY'S BASKETBALL TEAM FUNDRAISER

The coaches would like to thank all those who assisted, participated and encouraged us for making the fundraiser at Applebee's a great success for the basketball teams.

We served pancakes, bacon, coffee and orange juice to some 200 people all of whom left full and with a smile.

We did hear comments that the service was excellent and there wasn't one broken dish or syrup where it should not be. Our compliments and thanks to Applebee's for opening their restaurant cooking the breakfast and doing all the dishes. It is not to often that a place of business offers such an opportunity for fund raising as this. The team asks that if you find yourself out and haven't decided where to eat, consider Applebee's.

The season starts on December 4<sup>th</sup> 2010 at the Hub. See the attached schedule. The coaches and the players hope to see you at the games.

Again thanks to all who made this fundraiser possible and a success.

*Jim Carr, Dan Strain, Jim Krol, Matt Hoffmann*

## SALEM/ST. JOHN BOYS BASKETBALL PRACTICE SCHEDULE

Every Wednesday through February 2011 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 146 Reserve Rd., West Seneca - B Team - starts at 6- 7:30 pm;  
A Team - 7:15 - 8:30 pm.

## BOYS' BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Games will be held every Saturday beginning on December 4<sup>th</sup> at the HUB, Hamburg Wesleyan Church, Hamburg or Trinity Lutheran, West Seneca. There will be two teams again this year: A and B, younger and older.

December 4, 2010 at HUB

10 am Cleve. Hill Methodist B v Salem / St. John's Lutheran B  
3 pm Salem / St. John's Lutheran A v Orchard Park Wesleyan A

December 11, 2010 at HUB

11 am Salem / St. John's Lutheran A v Hamburg Wesleyan A  
1 pm Salem / St. John's Lutheran B v O.P. Wesleyan B2

December 18, 2010 at HUB

11 am Cazenovia Baptist B v Salem / St. John's Lutheran B  
1 pm Youth Advantage A v Salem / St. John's Lutheran A

December 25, 2010 - No games

January 8, 2011 at HUB

12 noon Youth Advantage B v Salem / St. John's Lutheran B  
1:50 pm Salem / St. John's Lutheran A v Orchard Park Wes. A

January 15, 2011 - Mixer Week at HUB

10 am Salem / St. John's Lutheran A  
2:30 pm Salem / St. John's Lutheran

January 22, 2011 at Trinity Lutheran

11 am Salem / St. John's Lutheran A v Cazenovia Baptist A  
12 noon Salem / St. John's Lutheran B v Hamburg Wesleyan B

January 29, 2011 at HUB

3 pm Hamburg Wesleyan A1 v Salem / St. John's Lutheran A  
Salem / St. John's Lutheran B Bye

February 5, 2011 at HUB

1 pm Salem / St. John's Lutheran B v O.P. Wesleyan B1  
2 pm Youth Advantage A v Salem / St. John's Lutheran A

February 12, 2011 at Trinity Lutheran - Wildcard Games

February 19, 2011 at HUB - Playoffs

February 26, 2011 at HUB - Playoffs

March 5, 2011 at HUB - Coach's week

Please come and support our teams!

*Jim Carr*

**OUR SYMPATHIES AND PRAYERS TO** the families of: Maureen Roberts (nee Strobele) who passed away October 27<sup>th</sup> 2010; Sharon Newman (nee Schmidt) who passed away November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010; Lynn Leahy (wife of Brian, mother of Erin, daughter of Jean and Cornelius O'Keefe) who passed away November 4, 2010; George Feltz (brother of Allen) who passed away November 5<sup>th</sup> 2010 and Henry Bogdan (father of Judy Carr) who passed away November 19<sup>th</sup> 2010.

## GIVING THANKS DINNER

Our best ever! Our thanks to all the Bible classes for sponsoring this event for the third year. Besides all Salem members who attended, we also invited the members of any group, which used Salem facilities over the past year. This included: Golden Agers, Girl Scouts, AA, Block Club & Trocaire students who parked nearby; as well as neighbors on Whitfield, McKinley, Red Jacket and Oakhurst Streets. Many of these groups did attend and were impressed with the warmth of our greetings and the abundance of the food. We served approximately 180 people at a cost of \$1.50 per person (and this was for a full course Thanksgiving dinner!) Praise the Lord!

To everyone who helped in any way to prepare for this event---Well Done! You are too numerous to mention. You baked squash and pies, roasted turkeys, decorated and set tables, prepared food, took flyers around the neighborhood, served coffee and did the clean-up afterwards. Special thanks to Bob Wolf and Paul Swierczynski who patiently carved eleven turkeys on Saturday, Dave Bartholomew for walking the neighborhood, our own Steve Jarmusz who kept all the roasters from blowing fuses! and our confirmation youth helped clear and reset tables.

On Monday, the leftover food was delivered to the South Buffalo Community Table, which received it gratefully.

God blessed all of our efforts in outreach to the community and ministering to our own members. *In thankfulness and praise.... Norrine Nagel for all Bible classes*

### **KARAOKE NIGHT**

7 - 10 pm

Church Social Room

Come and join the fun!

Watch the bulletin for more details.

### **"STRIKE THE ROCK" CONCERT**

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

7:30 pm

First Presbyterian Church, Union Rd., W. Seneca  
Snacks & Punch 6:30 -7:30 pm Free will offering  
*All proceeds benefit St. John's, West Seneca Building Fund.*  
*For more information, contact Sandy Haase at 668-3584.*  
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**Travel and Learn with Concordia College - New York -HIGHLIGHTS OF ITALY -** Join Dr. Viji George and Dr. Ralph Schultz for a trip of a lifetime!  
May 9-20, 2011 - \$3,189 from New York For more information call Rev. Greg Dwyer at 914-337-9300 ext. 2198.

## ENTERTAINMENT BOOK REPORT

Sincerest thanks for your participation in the Entertainment Book Campaign for Camp Pioneer.

The proceeds from this event will give camper scholarships in the Agape Program, serving those who have developmental disabilities and the Papyrus Program, an outreach to children in foster care.

Camp will receive \$119 for the books that were sold.

Next summer many children will be able to spend time at Camp Pioneer "A Warm Place in the Sun" due to you and many others who support this project.

Camp Pioneer thanks you and I do too. *Elinor Jentsch, Entertainment Book Chairperson*

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## THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Last year, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans provided more than \$100 million to help congregations, communities and individuals in need. The Thrivent Choice<sup>SM</sup> program offers two ways members can help choose where to direct some of Thrivent Financial's charitable outreach funds. Some members can participate in both, based on eligibility. Choice Dollars<sup>SM</sup> Eligible members are designated based on insurance premiums; contract values and Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership. Choice Dollars can be directed to Lutheran organizations you prefer nationwide, including your local Lutheran congregation.

**Voting Events:** All members 16 and older can vote during specific Voting Events to help determine where Thrivent Financial distributes \$1 million among Lutheran and non-Lutheran charitable organizations.

To be eligible for Choice Dollars, you must be a benefit member age 16 or older.

The Member Eligibility Requirements are:

Holding a Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership position or

Having \$800 or more in annual premiums of qualifying insurance products or

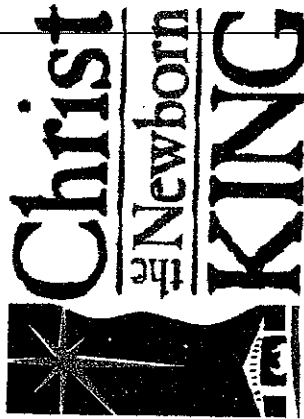
Having \$20,000 or more in contract value of qualifying products.

To participate in the Choice Dollars program contact [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com) or call 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) and state "Thrivent Choice."

**If you are eligible, you MUST use your Thrivent Choice Dollars for 2010 by March 31<sup>st</sup> 2011.** *If you have any questions, please contact Fred Bartz, Congregational Advocate. Thank you!*

55<sup>th</sup> Annual

# CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT VESPERS



December 5, 2010

4 & 7 p.m.

Coffee Hour after 7 p.m. Service

**First Trinity Lutheran Church  
1570 Niagara Falls Boulevard**

**Tonawanda, NY**

**Susan Brese, Vesper Choir Director**

- **Candlelight Procession**
- **Choral and Instrumental Music**
- **Congregational Singing**
- **Church of the Nativity UCC Children's Choirs**
- **Pre-Service Bell Choir**

**Trinity Lutheran Church, West Seneca**

*Babysitting for Children 5 and Under*

*Free Will Offering - Matching funds by Thrivent Financial  
Chapter of Erie County New York*

Sponsored by:

Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center  
Buffalo Members of Valparaiso University Guild



## POINSETTIAS - 2010

Again this year we want to beautify the sanctuary for the Christmas service with red poinsettias. The price will be \$8.50 for medium-height plants.

Plants may be taken Christmas Eve OR after the December 26<sup>th</sup> service. Please indicate your desire below.

All plants should be taken after the Sunday Service on December 26. None should be donated to the church or left here. However, if you do not care to have your plant and want it to be given to someone else, please designate name on the order blank and arrange to have the plant called for by someone. All donors and memorials will be listed in the service folder.

Following the services November 21 & 28 and December 5, orders will be taken by Judy and Ashley Hoffmann and Maureen Wilke. If you wish, you may mail your order to the church office. Please include payment when you place your order. Make checks payable to Salem Lutheran Church. Deadline for placing orders will be Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.

We thank you and look forward to your order.

## POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

Number of plants: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$8.50 = \_\_\_\_\_ / cash \_\_\_\_\_ /check \_\_\_\_\_

Donor's name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Given in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given as gift for: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Taking plants Christmas Eve OR \_\_\_\_\_ Taking plants December 26<sup>th</sup>.

## **MEMORIALS AND GIFTS**

**CHRISTCARE FUND**-----**Gifts:** Elinor Jentsch; Joyce Vassallo; Marie Willett

**CURRENT FUND**-----**Gift:** in thanks for funeral luncheon for Lynn Leahy by: Jean O'Keeffe

**In memory of:** Lynn Leahy by: Ruth Kray

**MAINTENANCE FUND**-----**In memory of:** parents, brothers & sisters by: Allen & Judi Feltz

**In memory of:** Robert Wiedemann by: Kim & Russ Alessi

**MEISSNER ENDOWMENT FUND**-----**In memory of:** Sallie Langner by: Ethel Berkhoudt (correction from last month's issue)

**Gifts:** Kim & Russ Alessi; Grace Belter; Marilyn Krentz; Kevin Jr. & Daylina Houck; Ray & Lois Yox; Arlene Ball; Shirley Banas; Dorothy Roger

IN MEMORIAM



**MEMORIAL FUND**-----**In memory of:** Marjorie Krueger by: Harold Krueger; Roy & Joan Krueger

**ROOF FUND**-----**In memory of:** Wilson Baker by: Debbie & Bradley Kelly

**In memory of:** Marian Cavanaugh by: Grace Krueger

**In memory of:** Florence Daberkow by: Shirley Wilke

**In memory of:** George Feltz by: Allen & Judi Feltz; Bill & Betty Roth

**In memory of:** Lynn Leahy by: Sue Gifford; Kim & Russ Alessi;

**In memory of:** Alvin Wilke by: Shirley Wilke

**Gift:** in honor of Norrine Nagel's birthday by: Joanne & Ken Kushka

**Gifts:** Norrine Nagel; Mark & Monica Thomas; Jim & Judy Carr; Kevin Jr. & Daylina Houck; David & Claire Carlson; Rich & Shirley Landseadel; Dorothy Weise; Grace Belter; Ruth Carr; Sharon Dimpfl; Dorothy Roger; Arlene Ball; David & Barbara Bartholomew; Fred Bartz; Melvin Beyers; Maria Eitler; Mark & Christine Johnson; Violet Kelm; Marilyn Krentz; George & Rose Ann Merkt; Jean Ponias; Paul & Stephanie Swierczynski; Nancy Thomas

**SCHOLARSHIP FUND**-----**In memory of:** Lynn Leahy by: Mark & Monica Thomas; Roy & Deann Sheppard

**Gift:** in honor of Norrine Nagel's birthday by: Rich & Shirley Landseadel

**SIGN FUND**-----**In memory of:** Sister Sally & Mother Marie by: Marilyn Krentz

**In memory of:** Henry Bogdan by: Rich & Shirley Landseadel; Mark & Monica Thomas

**In memory of:** Lynn Leahy by: Ruth Carr

**Gift:** in honor of Norrine Nagel's birthday by: Ethel Berkhoudt; Paul Thomas

**Gifts:** Fred Bartz

**STEPHEN MINISTRY FUND**-----**Gifts:** Mark & Christine Johnson

**YOUTH FUND**-----**Gift:** Brian Leahy

### **MEMORIALS & GIFTS PUBLICATION POLICY**

The following is the policy for the publication of the memorials and gifts in the "Dove." Memorials and Gifts are published based on information from the control sheets compiled by the counters each Sunday. Please note Memorials and Gifts may not be published in the Dove in the same month in which they are donated. Your name will only be published once under each fund whether or not a memorial and/or gift are both given. Your name will be published for each memorialized person. Your name will only be published once under each fund per month even though multiple contributions may be given. The only time donations to the Maintenance Fund are published is for Memorials. This has been the past practice for many years. *For any questions or clarification, please contact the "Dove" editor Claire Carlson*



Once again it is time to prepare the Flower Chart for altar flowers for the coming year. If you wish to place flowers on the altar on any Sunday during 2010 in memory of a loved one or in celebration of or in remembrance of a particular occasion, please fill in the form below, detach it and mail immediately to:

Mrs. Gloria Pfohl  
7475 E. Quaker Rd.  
Orchard Park, N. Y. 14127

**PLEASE DO NOT ASSUME THAT YOU WILL AUTOMATICALLY HAVE THE SAME SUNDAY NEXT YEAR THAT YOU HAD THIS YEAR OR IN PREVIOUS YEARS.** This would cause much confusion. Everyone **MUST RETURN THIS FORM** to insure a definite date. Also, please do not depend on VERBAL reservations given hastily on a Sunday morning; use the WRITTEN FORM. Sometime in January the flower chart will be prepared and posted in the narthex of church.

If during the coming year you should move, please call Gloria Pfohl (667-7396) and give her your new address and phone number.

It is possible to have more than one (up to three donors) for a given Sunday, as you undoubtedly know. Should two or more families request the same Sunday and the same floral pieces, they will be notified by telephone and the matter will be discussed.

Sidepieces and centerpieces for the foot of the cross are available at any price you desire. Prices begin at \$25.00 (subject to change, depending on the market). If preferred, two side vases may be provided instead of sidepieces. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated. Please detach and mail the form below to Mrs. Pfohl by **December 6** at the latest.

ALTAR FLOWERS - 2010

- 1) Donor name(s): \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
OR  
In remembrance of: \_\_\_\_\_  
OR  
In celebration of: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Date desired: Sunday, \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Check your choice: \_\_\_\_\_ one sidepiece; \_\_\_\_\_ two sidepieces; \_\_\_\_\_ centerpiece;  
\_\_\_\_\_ one vase; \_\_\_\_\_ two vases
- 5) Amount you wish to spend: \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) Name and address to which bill should be sent (please notify Mrs. Pfohl of any changes):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(name) (address) (phone)
- 7) Check one: \_\_\_\_\_ I will take flowers after church.  
\_\_\_\_\_ I will leave flowers for sick or shut-ins.