

St. Luke Lutheran Church

900 Maryvale Drive Cheektowaga, NY 14225-2702
716-633-6752-634-5560 www.stluke-buffalo.org

We are called by God's grace to enlighten all people in Jesus Christ



JANUARY 2009

Rev. Dr. Chris Wicher
Pastor
Dwight Karkan
DCE
Pam Maconaghy
Bev Wicher
Co-Editors

Email: chips@stluke-buffalo.org

SERVICES

Saturday

5:00 pm

Sunday

8:30 am - Traditional

**9:45m - Christian
Education**

**11:00 am -
Blended/Contemporary**

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From The Pastor

A blessed New Year to you!

Every New Year brings with it the hope and promise that new habits can start and a fresh new direction can be taken by anyone. So, what is your New Year's Resolution? Ever hear about the guy who said "I'm resolving to stop resolving." Now there is a resolution.

I realize that the New Year is nothing more than a number on our calendar, but the New Year is also a reminder that God brings new starts for people. We can start over in the name of the Lord, and that is a very good thing. When people come to church for a wedding or baptism or to hear words of God's grace and forgiveness there is always a new start for them. Of course, to start new we have to leave what is old – whatever old that might be. You cannot have a 2009 until 2008 is over, and it most certainly is by the time you're reading this.

The joy of church is being in the very place where new starts happen, seeing it happen, and watching the people who have changed.

That's what is so exciting about our Friday night ministry where community youth come and use our church building and not the streets to hang out. The kids love our church and being together. They have fun and it's wonderful just getting to know them!

That's what is so amazing about our families with children. Watching moms and dads take care of their children is a privilege. And watching the children grow and, over weeks and months, recognize you, makes one feel your taking a part in this child's development.

That's what happens when our Sunday School teachers teach God's Word to our children. The kids grow in the knowledge of God's love for them and they are changes.

That's what happens when our choirs meet, our Men's Club and LWML; these are people who, in their own way, encounter God in every face they meet. It's good for them and for everyone.

That's what happens when neighbors come and use our Food Pantry that is staffed by volunteer members and well organized and ran by John Brusco. Our neighbors find a friendly church with caring people and the good things that fill the belly. What can be wrong with that? Nothing.

It is wonderful, the variety of ways God's touches and changes lives, one at a time. All because St. Luke is here and you are St. Luke.

God's peace,

Pastor Chris Wicher



HELP WANTED—

We are looking for volunteers to help once a month with counting and posting. If you are interested or have any questions, please call Tammy Covey at 603-7789 after 3 pm.



THANK YOU

Many thanks to everyone who helped make our Christmas Gift giving a success. We really appreciate those who purchased gifts. Thank you again for your continued support!!

Mark & Cheryl Bossert



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Weddings

Daniel Monroe and Catherine Tenney – December 13

Baptisms

Sierra Faith Petersdorf – December 27



Adult Computer Class
Starting this January, Please see sign up sheet in fellowship area for times and dates. See Dwight for more details.

Who to Call...

The Staff of St. Luke Lutheran Church stand ready to assist you in every way we can, and can be reached at church (716) 633-6752 or (716) 634-5560 weekdays. Our answering machine will take messages at 633-6752. Our FAX number is (716) 635-0718. Our email address is secretary@stluke-buffalo.org

Pastor	Chris Wicher	Home 634-5898
Director of Christian Education	Dwight Karkan	445-4413
Organist	Thomas Mudd, Jr.	675-1065
Voice and Bell Choir Director	Thomas Mudd, Jr.	675-1065
BOARD OF TRUSTEES		
President	Sharon Falkowski	542-3658
Vice-President—Personnel	Cinde Gross	774-0063
Vice-President—Property	Richard Taylor	626-4920
Treasurer	Suzanne Connor	632-1958
Financial Secretary	Tammy Covey	603-7789
Recording Secretary	Chuck Walters	668-9517

BOARD CHAIRPERSONS

Spiritual Life/Congregational Care	Ellen Grant	308-6328
Special Care & Human Services	Karrie Frank	633-0733
Youth and Family	Dee Grzyb	639-1904
Resource Development	Sue Bethin	836-0423
Outreach and Mission Services	Kammy Ciesielski	632-2723
Christian Education/Life		

BOARD OF ELDERS

Walter Grzyb	639-1904	Susanna Garofaro	688-7094
Karen Baglio	686-0670	Manfried Rieger	634-4669
Gene Benson	634-0900	Allan Riemer	633-8548
Kim Spence	681-9939	Craig Maconaghy	626-0949
David Male	634-2456		

FOR THE FOLLOWING

- Address/phone corrections
- Altar Care
- Altar Flowers
- .Building Committee
- Bulletin Announcements
- "CHIPS" Newsletter
- Facility Maintenance
- Facility Use (scheduling)
- Food Pantry
- LWML
- LLL Representative
- Men's Club
- S.L.Y. Youth Group
- Son Shine Committee
- Special Care and Human Services
- Sunday School Information
- Thrivent

Contact

Mary Ellen Sima	633-6752
Allan Riemer	633-8548
Kathy Brogan	633-6752
Fred Schmitt	686-0642
Mary Ellen Sima	633-6752
Pam Maconaghy	626-0949
Bev Wicher	634-5898
Rich Taylor	626-4920
Church Office	633-6752
John & Linda Bruso	656-9489
Fern Suckow	833-0969
Scott Zimmerman	681-9939
Fred Harbart	683-0436
Dwight Karkan	633-6752
Gene Benson	634-0900
Ellen Grant	308-6328
Kammy Ciesielski	632-2723
Bettyann Schmitt	686-0642
Bud Foster	632-4187

STEWARDSHIP QUOTES

The parent who gives her child ten dollars for a movie and fifty cents for the Sunday School offering is teaching her a set a values that will carry her through a lifetime.

I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess.



2009 VISION

Did you know that our sweat equity crew has been building and finishing our new youth room? It is located on the second floor above the offices.

You can get there by the new stair tower or new elevator. It will not be long until it is completed and ready for ministry use.

Some have been asking what the plans are for its use. Well, since you asked....

...Imagine a space where young people of High School age can come after school that is safe and quiet to do their homework, play board games, or just plain relax....

...Imagine a Wii Bowling League for our Seniors in just that space. What fun that will be and besides once you get the hang of it people usually score much better on the Wii than in an actual Bowling Alley...

...Now, imagine Computer Classes, taught by our own people, for those who know nothing about computers or who want to improve their skills...

...Imagine a place where our Friday evening youth can hang out, play video games, laugh, and simply be together – off the street! – at our own church.

These are just the beginning of what we imagine will happen. Ministry...people together....in the name of Jesus...at the house of God.

PASTOR COBB INSTALLATION



Pastor Kenyatta Cobb will be installed as the first pastor of Hananiah Lutheran Church in Buffalo on Sunday, January 18th at 3:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend this service which will take place at the Lutheran Church of Our Savior at 26 Brunswick Blvd in Buffalo. A reception will follow at Hananiah.

THE SECRET

One day, one friend asked another, 'How is it that you are always so happy? You have so much energy, and you never seem to get down.'

With her eyes smiling, she said, 'I know the Secret!'

'What secret is that?'

To which she replied, 'I'll tell you all about it, but you have to promise to share the Secret with others.'

'The Secret is this:

I have learned there is little I can do in my life that will make me truly happy. I must depend on God to make me happy and to meet my needs. When a need arises in my life, I have to trust God to supply according to HIS riches. I have learned most of the time I don't need half of what I think I do. He has never let me down. Since I learned that 'Secret', I am happy.'

The questioner's first thought was, 'That's too simple!' But upon reflecting over her own life she recalled how she thought a bigger house would make her happy, but it didn't! She thought a better paying job would make her happy, but it hadn't. When did she realize her greatest happiness? Sitting on the floor with her children, playing games, eating pizza or reading a story, a simple gift from God.

Now you know it too! We can't depend on people to make us happy. Only GOD in His infinite wisdom can do that. Trust HIM! And now I pass the Secret on to you! So once you get it, what will you do?

YOU have to tell someone the Secret, too! That GOD in His wisdom will take care of YOU! But it's not really a secret... We just have to believe it and do it... Really trust God!

Just Pass It On!

Do your best; let God do the rest!



PRAYER SUPPORT GROUP

Beginning January 7 Pastor is offering a "Prayer Support Group" on Wednesday evenings. We will meet at 7:00 p.m. every Wednesday in the front of the church for group and individual prayer. The needs of the congregation, individuals, families, community and world will be our topics. This group is for everyone, even if you come only once. We will not have an ending time since our length of stay would depend on the amount of people who participate and the needs they bring. There is no need to sign up for the group. Just show up and bring all your requests to the Lord.

Undecorating the Church

Come help un-decorate the church on **January 11th** after services. Please come and help. . .the more hands we have the quicker we get finished.



DRAMA GROUP

On Sunday, February 15 at 3:00 p.m. a Drama group from St. Paul Lutheran Church in Eden

will perform "The Great Geek Tragedy" at St. Luke church. This play, written by Pastor Tom Lutz of St. Paul, is a delightful story with a hidden Christian message you are sure to enjoy. Tickets will be available in January for this play. They will be very reasonably priced. We just want people to come and have an enjoyable afternoon in the heart of winter. Watch the Sunday morning bulletin or our church web site at www.stluke-buffalo.org for more details.

2009 COUNCIL

At our Annual Voters Meeting in December members voted the return of several Council Members for 2009. The Council for 2009 is the same as 2008. We are truly grateful for those who have volunteered the time and energy to lead our congregation ahead to a brighter and better future in the Lord's name. Installation of Trustee and Council members is Sunday, January 11 in both services. Our 2009 Church Council is:

- President**
Sharon Falkowski
- Vice President – Personnel**
Cinde Gross
- Vice President – Property**
Rich Taylor
- Treasurer**
Sue Connor
- Finance Secretary**
Tammy Covey
- Recording Secretary**
Chuck Walters
- Elders**
Wally Grzyb
- Resource Development**
Dee Grzyb
- Outreach**
Sue Bethin
- Youth**
Karrie Frank
- Human Care**
Ellen Grant
- Education**
Kammy Ciesielski

A New Year's Prayer

"A new year is unfolding—like a blossom with petals curled tightly concealing the beauty within.

Lord, let this year be filled with the things that are truly good—with the comfort of warmth in our relationships, with the strength to help those who need our help and the humility and openness to accept help from others.

As we make our resolutions for the year ahead, let us go forward with great hope that all things can be possible—with Your help and guidance." - Amen



GOODSEARCH

Our congregation received a check of over \$70 because a number of our members wisely search the web using "Goodsearch", a search engine. You can help out St. Luke too – every bit helps! To start using "Goodsearch", simply go to www.Goodsearch.com and follow the instructions. When asked what agency are you sponsoring, type "St Luke Lutheran Church (Cheektowaga)". Every time you search the internet, use your Goodsearch account, and we will gain revenue. Help us go and watch us grow.

FunDay – Sunday!

On Sunday, January 18, we invite the ladies of our congregation to an afternoon of getting acquainted with our Buffalo Zone LWML sisters. Our FunDay – Sunday will be here at St. Luke at 2:00 p.m. You don't have to be an active member of the LWML to join us – in fact, we'd love to have some of our younger women attend. This will be a chance to get to know new people and make. Put this on your calendar, ladies!



USED BOOK SALE

Sunday School will be having a used book sale Saturday, May 30. We are accepting donations now of used books, cd's, DVD,s or videos beginning now. Donations may be left in the back of the church or given to Sharon Green. The more books we collect, the more money we make to help our Sunday School so tell your friends and neighbors to clean off those book shelves and donate those books they no longer want. I will be collecting book right up to the date of the sale in the spring. Please contact Sharon Green (685-8786 or sag091@adelphia.net) with any questions. Thanks for your support.



EMAIL "CHIPS" NEWSLETTER

More and more we're thinking "green" at St. Luke. In the interest of using less paper and being more friendly to our environment, we'd like to offer our monthly newsletter "Chips" over the internet. It is the exact same newsletter. Nothing will be changed from the paper copy you are use to receiving by mail, only you can view and read it on your computer screen in the comfort of your home.



We know not everyone has a computer and so we will continue to send paper copies of Chips by U.S. mail to those who do not choose to receive it by email. But if you do own a computer and you can receive email, you can do St. Luke and our planet a good service by requesting to receive Chips by email.

A sign up sheet is available in the Fellowship Room at church for those who would like to start receiving Chips by email, starting with the January '09 issue. Sign your name of the list or call the church office with this information. Of course we will need your correct email address as well.

You will start receiving Chips soon and, in time, important timely messages from the Church Office.

Thank you.

HUMAN CARE FUND

The Human Care Committee has recognized the growing need for those in our church community and in our neighborhood who may have emergency, unexpected needs such as unemployment, illness and related. We've made the decision to establish a Human Care Fund. Donations can be made with the notation to the "Human Care Fund" Those citizens who are brought to the attention of Pastor Chris as well as those he receives calls concerning will be assisted to the best of our ability. We thank you in advance for opening your hearts and wallets. Please feel free to contact Ellen Grant, Chair, Human Care Committee



JANUARY 2009

St. Luke Lutheran Church—900 Maryvale Drive—Cheektowaga NY—Phone 633-6752 or 634-5560—E-mail: secretary@stluke-buffalo.org
 Worship Saturday 5 p.m.—Sunday 8:30 & 11 a.m.—Christian Education Hour 9:45

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 <i>New Year's Day</i>	2 Office Closed Pastor's Day Off 9-12 "Campfire" at D- Wight's	3 9:30 Women's Discus- sion Group 5:00 Holy Communion
4 <i>2nd Sunday After Christmas</i> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:45 Christian Education 11:00 Prayer & Praise	5 Dwight's Day Off 5:30 Exercise Class 6:30 Trustees 7:00 AIAnon 7:00 Elders	6 <i>Epiphany</i> 11-1 Food Pantry 7:00 Lutheran Chorale 7:30 Recovery 7-9 Youth Bible Study at	7 5:30 Exercise Class 7:00 Men's Bible Study 7:00 Prayer Group	8 9:00 TOPS 10:00 Adult Bible Class 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Voice Choir 8:00 Soul Celebration	9 Pastor's Day Off 9-12 "Friday Nights with Dwight	10 5:00 Worship
11 <i>Baptism of Jesus</i> 8:30 Worship 9:45 Christian Education 11:00 Holy Communion	12 Dwight's Day Off 5:30 Exercise Class 7:00 Church Council 7:00 AIAnon	13 11-1 Food Pantry 7:00 Lutheran Chorale 7:00 Building Committee 7:30 Recovery 7-9 Youth Bible Study at	14 5:30 Exercise Class 7:00 Prayer Group	15 9:00 TOPS 10:00 Adult Bible Class 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Voice Choir 8:00 Soul Celebration	16 Pastor's Day Off 9-12 "Friday Nights with Dwight	17 5:00 Holy Communion
18 <i>2nd Sunday After Epiphany</i> 8:30 Holy Communion 9:45 Christian Education 11:00 Prayer and Praise 2:00 LWML Zone Fun- day Sunday	19 Dwight's Day Off 5:30 Exercise Class 7:00 AIAnon	20 11-1 Food Pantry 7:00 Lutheran Chorale 7:30 Recovery 7-9 Youth Bible Study at	21 5:30 Exercise Class 7:00 Prayer Group	22 9:00 TOPS 10:00 Adult Bible Class 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Voice Choir 8:00 Soul Celebration	23 Pastor's Day Off 9-12 "Friday Nights with Dwight	24 5:00 Worship
25 <i>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</i> 8:30 Worship 9:45 Christian Education 11:00 Holy Communion 6:00 Spaghetti Din- ner/Talent Show 7:00 Women's Bible	26 Dwight's Day Off 5:30 Exercise Class 6:30 Men's Club 7:00 AIAnon	27 11-1 Food Pantry 7:00 Lutheran Chorale 7:30 Recovery 7-9 Youth Bible Study at	28 5:30 Exercise Class 7:00 Prayer Group	29 9:00 TOPS 10:00 Adult Bible Class 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Voice Choir 8:00 Soul Celebration	30 Pastor's Day Off 9-12 "Friday Nights with Dwight	31 5:00 Holy Communion

Youth Update

It's a New Year! Happy 2009! I have bit the bullet and I am going to try the gym membership this year. It would be nice to drop about 15 lbs of my waist. How about you? Less sweets, gym, read a few books, a year without a speeding ticket? Whatever it is I know how hard it's going to be. There are two words that immediately come to mind;

dedication/motivation. Both words are easier said than done! We will start this new venture with vigor, and whole heartedly, then the days and weeks drag by and we find better things to do right?

I know I am totally guilty of this. I fall short every year (last year I said that I was going cook everything in my Betty Crocker cook book... I got as far as the 7th page.) Salsarita's is way better than my cooking!

The truth is it we all fall short from time to time. The reason I fall short is because I started with dedication and motivation, however I was missing one word... **Accountability.** I had nobody helping me with my goals. It became easy to lose sight of the goal. By February I totally fizzed out.

Sometimes it is the same with our faith. Something happens in our lives that draws us to Christ and then days and weeks go by and we lose the dedication and motivation to seek Christ. Church becomes repetitious and not as intimate, Bible study seems to be a chore, and our personal devotions disappear. The word accountability is such a powerful word because with accountability comes endurance, encouragement, and empowerment.

This year I pray you find joy in whatever you chose as your resolution, but I also pray you find an accountability partner to encourage, but also help you on those down days. God is obviously the first person I have in mind but it is also nice to find a friend to go the journey with you.

Lord's Blessings on this year. I am pumped about 2009!



YOUTH BIBLE STUDY



Every Tuesday from 7-9 at D-White's house. Please bring a Bible and a friend-everyone is welcome! We can always use pop and snacks too!

Friday Nights With Dwight

7pm- midnight at church



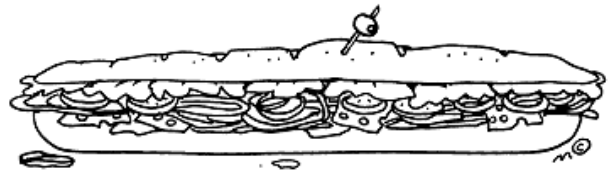
LASERTRON

LASERTRON LOCK-IN

9th-12th graders

Friday January 9th at 7 pm- Saturday morning 7 am
Drivers and Chaperones are needed, and go free
Please see Dwight for permission forms or to help chaperone.

Cost is \$35 per person.



SUPERBOWL SUB SALE

February 1

Must be ordered by January 25th

Subs are \$5.00

We need to youth to help sell, prepare and hand out subs. This is a great fundraiser for our youth...but we need your help.

COFFEE SHOP

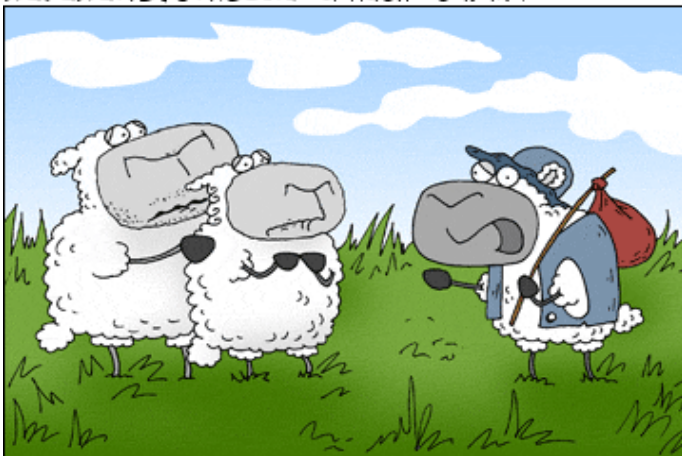
Starts on January 28th.

From 2:30-5 pm every Wednesday and Thursday. This is for 7th- 12th grade

Students who want to do homework in a nice mellow atmosphere.



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(See Isaiah 53:6)

01-12-2007

STOP MAKING SUCH A BIG DEAL ... I'M YOUNG ... GOING ASTRAY IS JUST SOMETHING I NEED TO DO

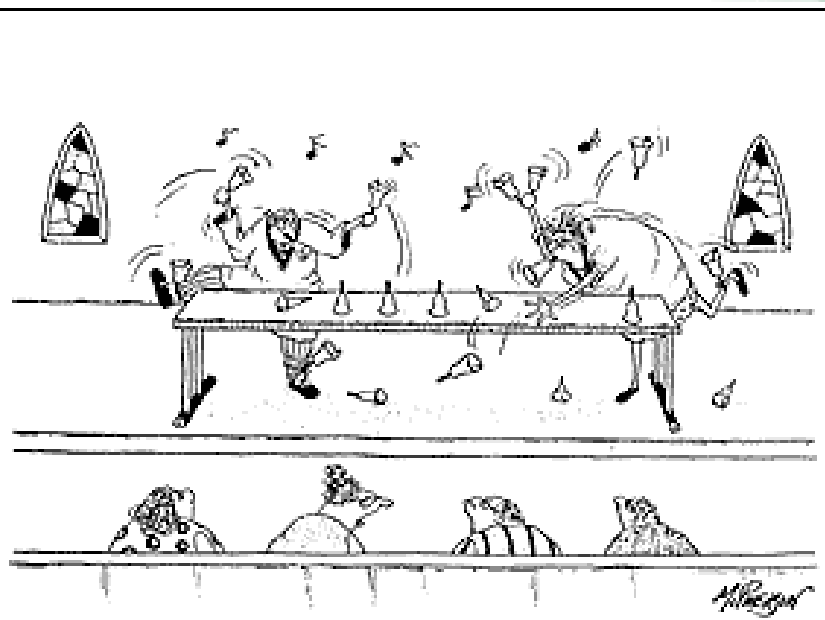
For Youth activities updates check out:

<http://www.myspace.com/saintlukeyouthgroup>



Birthdays

Albert, Jacqueline	1/2	DiDomenico, Nancy	1/20	Lee, Austin	1/21
Bates, David	1/13	Dietl, Christine	1/31	Maconaghy, Joshua	1/2
Becker, Virginia	1/6	DiPaolo, Karen	1/17	Michael, Fred	1/13
Beicke, William	1/2	Donahue, Judith	1/1	Mohr, Dorothy	1/18
Benson, Betty	1/29	Donahue, Timothy	1/1	Mudd, Rose	1/16
Brado, John	1/10	Dutkiewicz, Alexander	1/9	Nelson, Robert	1/11
Brand, Lori	1/1	Dutkiewicz, Christopher	1/8	Novak Jr., David	1/8
Brandel, Russell	1/28	Eggert, Donald	1/17	Orth, Joshua	1/18
Brogan, Kevin	1/25	Ferrulo, Max	1/23	Paolini, Michael	1/3
Brzezowski, Carly	1/27	Frayne Jr., Kevin	1/15	Parke, Rachel	1/2
Casey, Sherrie	1/30	Friedrich, Ursula	1/11	Pawlick, Louise	1/21
Champagne, Austin	1/29	Gaiser, Jennifer	1/25	Pralow, Austin	1/8
Chriss, Ashlee	1/17	Gandy, Alissandria	1/13	Ruppert, Jacob	1/5
Covey, Tammy	1/8	Gardner, Betty	1/1	Rutkowski, Jason	1/1
Dafgard, Paula	1/8	Gardner, Chester	1/27	Rutkowski, Sandra	1/19
De Temple, David	1/16	Glass Jr., Jerry	1/5	SanGeorge, Dorothy	1/21
Dersam, Anna	1/14	Green, Kayla	1/26	Schiller, Gregory	1/1
Dersam, Emily	1/16	Gutek, Lori	1/3	Schmitt, Michael	1/3
		Hall, Cody	1/13	Smith, Taylor	1/24
		Harris, Daniel	1/16	Stanford, Sarah	1/31
		Hertel, Edward	1/28	Taylor, Michelle	1/7
		Horn, Philip	1/6	Tedesco Jr., Gregory	1/2
		Januszkiewicz, Roger	1/4	Thompson, Shelby	1/18
		Kaun, Andrew	1/27	Walters, Bernadine	1/1
		King, Gertrude	1/17	Weston, Brandon	1/13
		Kleber, Bruce	1/5	Willert, Edward	1/20
		Lamprecht, Joanna	1/1	Williams, Colleen	1/27
		Lang, Jeremy	1/21		



"The rest of the bell choir is out with the flu."

***Happy and
Healthy New Year
with many
Blessings
From the Trustees, Council
and Elders***

Happy New Year!

MONTH OF JANUARY						
	Time	January 4	January 11	January 18	January 25	
Altar		Altar Care for the Month of January - Allan Riemer				
Greeters	8:30					
	11					
Lector	8:30	Audrey Golnick	David Male	Sharon Falkowski	Ed Loeffler	
	11	Soul Celebration	Megan Bruso	Soul Celebration	Marg Albert	
Worship Asst.	8:30	Allan Riemer	David Male	Karen Baglio	Craig Maconaghy	
	11	Soul Celebration	Lanny Repman	Soul Celebration	Susan Garofaro	
Comm. Assist.	8:30	Audrey Golnick		Don Eggert		
	11		Nancy Errett		Marg Albert	
Elders	5:00	Karen Baglio		Wally Grzyb		
Elders	8:30	Allan Riemer		Karen Baglio		
	11		Lanny Repman		Susan Garofaro	
Acolytes	8:30	Michaela Barone Kevin Brogan	Michael Farley Amanda Thompson	Samantha Stanford Sarah Stanford	Kevin Brogan Michael Farley	
	11	Jackson DiGiacomo Justen Dohn	Michael Gandt Leanne Vanaker	Michaela Barone Amanda Thompson	Samantha Stanford Sarah Stanford	
Building Counter						
Trustee						
Counters						
Posters						

St. Luke Lutheran Church

900 Maryvale Drive
Cheektowaga, NY 14225

Phone: 716-633-6752
Fax: 716-635-0718
Email: secretary@stluke-buffalo.org

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