

# St. Luke Lutheran Church

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

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



The Monthly Newsletter since 1954

**December 2011**

Rev. Chris Agne  
Pastor

Pam Maconaghy  
Editor

Email: stlukechips@yahoo.com

## **SERVICES**

**Saturday**

**5:00 pm**

**Sunday**

**8:30 am**

**9:45—10:45**

***Christian Education***

**11:00 am -**

***Blended/Contemporary***

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## *From The Pastor*



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It's a common complaint, especially at this time of year. You know what I'm talking about. Maybe you've even said it yourself. What is this annual criticism? "Christmas starts earlier and earlier!" Or, how about "It's not even Thanksgiving yet, and they're playing Christmas music?!" Or any number of ways of restating the issue.

Yes, it does seem that Corporate America is bent on foisting the holiday season on us at ever-earlier dates. And yet, we as followers of Jesus, are called to always be prepared for his return. What does one have to do with the other?

The holy season of Advent is all about preparation. It's not about preparing our shopping lists, preparing dinners for family and friends, preparing our homes with lights, ornaments and other decorations, though these all make for a delightful holiday season. It's a about preparing for the arrival of Jesus! And here's the really good part: That arrival is two-fold!

Advent is about preparing for the celebration of Christ's first coming, when God became a human being, to live a life of perfect obedience to God, to suffer and die in our place on the cross, to be our Savior. It's also about preparing for His second coming.

At Our Lord's return, everything will be made right! There will be no more suffering, no more hurt, no more pain, no more sin, no more death, no more guilt, no more anything but the love, joy, and peace! No wonder our prayer at this time of year, is Come Quickly, Lord Jesus!

Peace and joy to you this holiday season,  
--Pastor Chris





My thanks to June Goochie, a former member of Gethsemane Church, who recently gave me a packet of memorabilia she had saved through the years while a member of Gethsemane. Included are some Sunday Bulletins and newsletters, photographs, historical information, etc. Also included in the material was an 8" x 11" framed photo of Gethsemane that had been taken many years ago and the photo is to be (or may already be) placed into the glass case containing other articles from both Gethsemane and Bethany Church. The rest of the material has been placed in the room where St. Luke's historical records are kept. Thanks again to June for sharing these documents with us. Audrey Cain, Historian



**THE ANNUAL VOTER'S MEETING** is set for Sunday, Dec. 11th, at 11:00 a.m. There will be only one service that day at 10:00 a.m. On the agenda for this meeting will be the approval of our 2012 budget and election of new officers.

**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 Agne	413-1333
Organist	Thomas Mudd, Jr.	675-1065
Voice and Bell Choir Director	Thomas Mudd, Jr.	675-1065

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

President	Fred Schmitt	686-0642
Vice-President—Personnel	Nancy Errett	289-4453
Vice-President—Property	Richard Taylor	626-4920
Treasurer	Linda Rowe	684-6236
Financial Secretary	Ken Knoll	683-7242
Recording Secretary	Pam Maconaghy	626-0949

**BOARD CHAIRPERSONS**

Spiritual Life/Congregational Care	Wally Grzyb	639-1904
Special Care & Human Services	Ellen Grant	308-6328
Youth and Family	Greg and LoriRose Tedesco	877-1717 or 207-5900
Resource Development	Dr. Thomas Kuhn	691-8121
Outreach and Mission Services	Marg Albert	875-9363
Christian Education/Life	Jacquie Albert	812-1374

**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	771-3542
Craig Maconaghy	626-0949	Dave Shotwell	876-0364
David Male	634-2456		

**FOR THE FOLLOWING**

Address/phone corrections	<b>Contact</b>	
Altar Care	Karen Baglio	633-6752
Altar Flowers	Allan Riemer	771-3542
.Building Committee	Kathy Brogan	633-6752
Bulletin Announcements	Fred Schmitt	686-0642
"CHIPS" Newsletter	Karen Baglio	633-6752
Facility Maintenance	Pam Maconaghy	626-0949
Facility Use (scheduling)	Rich Taylor	626-4920
Food Pantry	Church Office	633-6752
LWML	Ed and Rita Loeffler	834-8021
LLL Representative	Fern Suckow	833-0969
Men's Club	Scott Zimmerman	681-9939
Youth Group	Fred Harbart	683-0436
Son Shine Committee	Greg and LoriRose Tedesco	877-1717 or 207-5900
	Gene Benson	634-0900
	Dave Shotwell	876-0364
Special Care and Human Services	Ellen Grant	308-6328
Sunday School Information	Jacqueline Albert	875-9363
	Bettyann Schmitt	686-0642
Thrivent	Bud Foster	632-4187
Weekly Contributions	Ken Knoll	683-7242



**Christmas Tree Blessing**

Holy Creator of Trees, bless with your abundant grace this our Christmas tree as a symbol of joy. May its evergreen branches be a sign of your never-fading promises. May its colorful lights and ornaments call us to decorate with love our home and our world. May the gifts that surround this tree be symbols of the gifts we have received from the Tree of Christ's Cross. Holy Christmas tree within our home, may Joy and Peace come and nest in your branches and in our hearts. Amen. - Author Unkown



### MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICES

Theme: "A Child is Born in Bethlehem"

#### November 30th

Salem, S. Buffalo

6 p.m. - Soup & Salad Supper

7:15 - Hymn Sing/ 7:30 - Worship

#### December 7th

St. Luke, Cheektowaga

6 p.m. - Soup & Salad Supper

7:15 - Hymn Sing/ 7:30 - Worship

#### December 14th

Holy Cross, Clarence

6 p.m. - Soup & Salad Supper

7:15 - Hymn Sing/ 7:30 - Worship

I pray that you have a blessed celebration of Christmas, one that is filled with awe, love and expectation!

### HOW CAN YOU SERVE?



There are a number of openings in the Board of Trustees and the Church Council. Elections for these positions will take place at the

Congregational Meeting in December. The following are up for re-election:

#### Board of Trustees

President

Vice-President of Property

Financial Secretary

#### Church Council

Youth and Family Ministry

Resource Development

Chairman of the Board of Elders

Interested? Check out the job descriptions in the Fellowship Area to see where your God given talents can be best used or contact Nancy Errett, Vice-President of Personnel, who can be reached via email, [nancyerrett@yahoo.com](mailto:nancyerrett@yahoo.com), or phone 289-4453 to discuss it further.



In our prayers for the Lord's healing:

- Bob Dersam
- Janet Male
- Sandy Bednarz (sister of Pam Maconaghy)
- Phil Garafano
- June Hoffman (mother of Karen Dipaolo)
- Ben Heppel
- Brian Merrit (nephew of Valerie Gurdino)
- Bob Swannie (cousin of Bonnie Reiger)
- Stephan Hegna
- Fred Dipaolo
- Chuck Walters
- Brenda Otte (former youth worker at St. Luke)
- Heidi Stephens,
- Diane Neuhauser
- Donna Eggert
- Mary Mays (friend of Chuck and Betty Walters)
- Irma Stone and Family
- Christian Nowakowski (granddaughter of Valerie Guardino)
- Dorothy Reid (grandmother of Rose Mudd)
- Karlyn Finucane (Lutheran Chorale)
- William Dhalke
- Jay Bliss (father of LoriRose Tedesco)
- William and Alice Tedesco (grandparents of Greg Tedesco)
- Bernard Brzezowski
- Marcia Bos
- Anne Marie Whisner
- Evelyn Sanders
- Berndine Walters
- Barbara D'orazio
- Gerre Tropman
- Diane Michael
- Cheryl Bossert
- Frank Klein



### Christmas Gift Giving:

Again at St. Luke, we would like to help the less fortunate children in our community. If you want to participate in our Christmas Gift giving, please choose a gift "tag" from our Christmas tree which should be displayed by the end of November. **Please purchase only 1 gift per tag!!** Look in the weekly bulletin for updates on when to bring the wrapped gifts to church. Thank you in advance for your support. If you have any questions, please contact Mark or Cheryl Bossert at 632-4239.



### Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule

We invite you to celebrate His coming into our midst as you join us in worship:

#### November 26/27

1st Sunday in Advent

#### December 3/4

2nd Sunday in Advent

#### December 10/11

3rd Sunday in Advent

#### December 17

#### 5pm Blue Christmas Service

#### December 18

4th Sunday in Advent

Program by Sunday School

Children - at all services

#### December 24th

Christmas Eve

Family service at 4 p.m.

Candlelight Service at 10:30 p.m.

#### December 25th

Christmas Day Service at 10 a.m.

#### December 31

New Year's Eve Service 5 pm



**St Luke Supports Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack Event**  
**My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Jn 15:12**

On Saturday, November 19, twenty-five members of St Luke packed "Manna Pack" meals through Feed My Starving Children. In the course of the two-day event in Buffalo, over 100,000 meals were packed. These meals will be sent to starving children in over seventy countries, and will provide life-giving nutrition to those most in need. Included in the group from St Luke were nine of our youth; they are a wonderful example of sharing the love and blessings of our God with others! And- they looked amazing in their hairnets!

The congregation of St Luke supported the meal packing effort through donations as well. The St Luke "family" contributed over \$465.00, including a significant and heartfelt donation from our Sunday School children. This generous donation purchased over 1900 meals for the Mobile Pack event.

Thank you to Lori Brand, Kevin Brogan, Kathy Brogan, Audrey Cain, Tabatha Coleman, Donna Daly, Joey DiGiacomo, Karen DiPaolo, Karrie Frank, Angel Gillette, Eric Green, Kayla Green, Sharon Green, Tom Green, Sherry Horn, Beth Machnica, Karen Machnica, Craig Maconaghy, Pam Maconaghy, Diane Michael, Fred Michael, Ashley Sutton, MacKenzie Szeffel, Amanda Thompson and Shelby Thompson, and to the St Luke congregation, for your generosity and prayers. Please continue to keep the children helped through Feed My Starving Children, and all those in need, in your prayers.

**2nd ANNUAL SOUP SALE**

St. Luke will hold a home-made soup sale on Jan. 20th & 21st. Soup will again be \$5 qt. on a pre-order/pre-pay basis only, so we know how much to make. Qt. containers will be microwavable and freezer ready, so stock up for the long winter days ahead. This year's choices will be: fireman's chowder, potato/ham and harvest vegetable. Orders will be taken starting the end of December, and profits will go directly to our own food pantry. Save your holiday beef & ham bones for us, we'll put them to good use.



**COFFEE HOUR**

We will not have a coffee hour sign-up sheet for the month of December. Everyone is busy with holiday preparations, so we will use our "coffee can" cash donations for treats. Thank you to those who signed up for November.

**Meat Raffle Update:** On November 12, 2011 we held our 4<sup>th</sup> St. Luke Meat Raffle at the Polish Falcons Banquet Hall in Depew. The event was a huge success. Everyone had a great time and we raised over \$ 3,850.00. A portion of the proceeds went to the St. Luke Food Pantry and the balance went to reduce our roof repair loan. A big thank you to all who helped make this a successful fundraiser.

**Debt Reduction Update: Roof Loan**

Balance of loan as of Oct. 1, 2011:	\$ 33,038.64
October Contributions:	- \$ 1,191.75
October Interest charges:	+ \$ 130.27
Loan for drainage repair, 158 Unionvale	<u>+ \$ 2,870.00</u>
Balance owed:	\$ 34,847.16

Balance owed as of 1/1/11 was \$44,027.72. We have reduced this debt by almost \$ 10,000.00 this year. Please help us to eliminate this debt by April 1, 2012. You Can make a donation by marking a plain envelope with

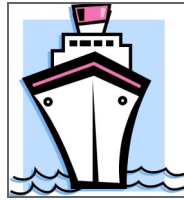
Your envelope number and mark it: **Roof Repair** and place It in the Sunday collection.

**TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES:**

Pastor Mike Blackwell is planning two travel opportunities in



2012. He will lead a bus tour of the **Hudson Valley** and **New York City** June 12-16 including stops at the United States Military Academy at West Point and the Statue of Liberty. October 30-November 10, he is coordinating a **Mediterranean Cruise** on the



Norwegian Jade with stops in Athens and Olympia, Greece, Ephesus in Turkey and Alexandria, Egypt, concluding

with an overnight in Rome Italy. For brochures and details call Pastor Mike (771-3474). **Top's gift card update:**



As of the end of October, 2011, we have sold over \$ 220,000 of

Top's gift cards since April 2006. We have raised over \$ 11,000 to date. All future proceeds will go to our roof repair. We receive 5% of every Top's gift card we sell.

If you already shop at Tops, please consider buying a gift card. Gift cards are sold every Sunday between services. You will find us at the Welcome Center in the gathering space.

# December 2011

St. Luke Lutheran Church—900 Maryvale Drive—Cheektowaga NY—Phone 633-6752 or 634-5560—E-mail: secretary@stluke-buffalo.org

**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**



**4** Second Sunday

**of Advent**

8:30 am Worship

9:45 am Christian Ed.

11:00 am Worship

**5**

7:00 pm Alanon

7:00 pm Barbershop Chorus

**11** Third Sunday of

**Advent**

10:00 am Worship Only

Congregational Mtg. to follow

**12**

7:00 pm Alanon

7:00 pm Barbershop Chorus

**18** Fourth Sunday

**of Advent**

8:30 am Worship/

Christmas Program

9:45 am Christian Ed.

11:00 am Worship/

Christmas Program

**26**

6:30 pm Men's Club/

Alanon

7:00 pm Barbershop

Chorus

**6**

11:00 am Food Pantry

6:30 pm Counsel mtg.

7:00 pm Lutheran Chorus

7:30 pm Recovery

**13**

11:00 am Food Pantry

7:00 pm Lutheran Chorale

7:00 pm Lutheran-WorldBenefit Concert/ Sanctuary

**20**

11:00 am Food Pantry

7:00 pm Lutheran Chorus

7:30 pm Recovery

**27**

11:00 am Food Pantry

7:00 pm Lutheran Chorus

7:30 pm Recovery

Youth Conf. Begins

**7**

Advent services at St. Luke (details pg.3)

7:00 pm Men's Bible Study

**14**

Advent services at Holy Cross (details pg.3)

**21**

11:00 am LWML mtg.

**8**

9:00 am TOPS

10:00 am Bible Study

11:00 am Paper Cuts

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Voice Choir

7:00 pm Arthritis Conn.

8:00 pm Prayer & Praise

**15**

9:00 am TOPS

10:00 am Bible Study

11:00 am Paper Cuts

6:00 pm Bell Choir

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7:00 pm Arthritis Conn.

8:00 pm Prayer & Praise

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7:00 pm Arthritis Conn.

8:00 pm Prayer & Praise

**9**

7:00 pm Girls Scouts

**16**

7:00 pm Girl Scouts

Small Grp. Bible Study

**23**

7:00 pm Girl Scouts

**10**

AM Christmas program Rehearsal

5:00 pm Worship

**17**

AM Christmas program Rehearsal

9:00 am Fundraising Com. Mtg.

5:00 pm Worship Service/

**Blue Christmas Service**

**24**

5:00 pm Worship

10:30 pm Worship

**31**

5:00 pm Worship

**3** AM Christmas program Rehearsal  
3-5 pm Flu Shots  
5:00 pm Worship/ Lessons & Carols

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Church Decorating/ Soup & Salad 6 pm

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7:00 pm Men's Bible Study

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# ST LUKE YOUTH BLOG

So it is that time of year again, yay! Full of commercialism and branding. Lots of FFF (Forced Family Fun). I always get so sick of the holiday commercials way before Thanksgiving. However, I never get sick of Christmas music; I do not mind it playing already at the grocery store and the pharmacy. It reminds me of more innocent times when Christmas was so exciting. Don't get me wrong, I love Christmas--my family even calls me "Mr. Christmas", but it also makes me long for earlier times. With each box our family opens, it reveals generations of memories of Christmas past. Decorations can bring back great memories and sad one's, especially of the ones who are no longer here with us. I have this really old village that was my Nana's (Great Grandmother's). She bought the pieces from Satler's and Hens & Kelly (I am not old enough to remember these stores but the tags are still there). They are made out of hard paper and painted with glitter as only a generation far removed could imagine. I display this vintage decor with the matching bottle brush trees with pride. Not because of their value, or because they are so cool and antique, but because I remember how my Nana (Great Grandmother) lovingly displayed her little village in miniature. I am so grateful that her daughter, my Grandmother, thought so highly of me to share this gift with me.

Holiday traditions are a great way to keep our eyes towards the main focus of the season—Jesus! It is hard not to focus on the commercialism of the season, but we need to try and connect to the past--when Christmas was less focused on the gift, but on the preparation and the true meaning of the celebration.

Happy Holidays to one and all!

Greg

207-5900/birdgt4@aol.com

call me/email me/text me/facebook me/tweet me...or just come and say "Hi!"



**UGLI-QUILT December 9 at noon:** The Youth are asked to participate in a service project making an "Ugli quilt" for the homeless. We have a few volunteers but we need more people willing to teach kids how to sew and to bring sewing machines for that day. Also, we still need donation of old jeans, sweatshirts, sweatpants, or any material. The more we have the more we can make. These quilts will be distributed through friends of the night people.



There will be a VERY important **Youth & Family meeting on Tuesday November 29 @ 6:30 pm.** We will be discussing 3 topics. 1.) The upcoming Chinese / Theme Tray Auction 2.) The 2013 LCMS Youth Gathering 3.) Niagara 11 Who should come? If your family utilizes the Camp Pioneer "Camperships", If you would like to volunteer to help at the Chinese Auction, If your child will be between the ages of 14-19 in July 2013, or If you are attending the Niagara 11 Conference... You need to attend this all encompassing meeting. The meeting will flow with the most relevant topic to the largest number of people, so you do not have to stay for the whole meeting if the topic does not pertain to you.

Please consider making a purchase during those great holiday sales for the upcoming Chinese Auction next Spring.

Small Group Bible Study is still going and we will meet on Friday December 16 @ 6 pm, please bring a friend!

Movie night for December will be on December 2 @ 7pm



			Dawn Malchow	12/7		Gianna Conti	12/16
			James Quinn Jr.		12/7	Thomas Green	12/16
			Samuel Torcasio		12/7	Taylor Keohane	12/16
			Henry Friedrich	12/8		Shawn Skok	12/16
			Ellen Gerhardt		12/8	Mitchell Dietl	12/17
			Viola Iannazzo	12/8		Tina Reed	12/17
			Erin Baranetsky	12/9		Paul Sima	12/18
			Abigail Brudz		12/9	Charles Walters	12/18
			Cynthia Gross		12/9	Susan Berekbo	12/19
			Rachael Moll		12/9	Courtney Robert	12/19
			Sara Savatter		12/9	Peter Darcy	12/20
			Cole Covey		12/10	Marie Koch	12/20
			Dave Darcy		12/10	Marilyn Kozlowski	12/20
			Jason Haas		12/10	Savannah Victor	12/20
			Richard Oetinger		12/10	Jayden Krueger	12/21
			Nicole Champagne		12/11	Carol Deitrick	12/22
			Jean Hanel		12/11	Michelle Mikolajczyk	12/22
			Dalton Morley		12/11	Aidan Cramer	12/23
			Stacy Battle		12/12	McKenna Foreman	12/23
			Shannon Wiegert		12/12	Justin Lamprecht	12/23
						John Limpert	12/23
			Aidan Zimmerman		12/12	Chyanne Tedesco	12/23
			Barbara Kiblin		12/13	Alexander Jablonski	12/24
			Stephan Palermo		12/13	Christine Parmelee	12/24
			Demetria Bottoms		12/14	Mary Januszkiewicz	12/25
			Andrew Kasprzyk		12/14	Larissa Connor	12/26
			Adam Oetinger	12/14		Susan Brado	12/27
			Linda Shaver		12/14	Brian Schmidt	12/27
			Angela Meyer		12/15	Eric Boyle	12/28
			Thomas Stoklosa		12/15	William Broad	12/28
Peyton Dee		12/1					
Austin Kossow	12/1						
Daniel Kwiatkowski		12/1					
Molly Robert		12/1					
Ryan Smith		12/1					
Makayla Colvin	12/2						
Lily Hart		12/2					
James Gutek		12/3					
Nicholas Horn		12/3					
Jacob Kulczyk		12/3					
Karen Eckam		12/4					
Philip Garofaro	12/4						
Timothy Kacprowicz		12/4					
Jessica Clark		12/5					
Naomi Foreman	12/5						
Sherry Horn		12/6					
Ryan Kacprowicz		12/6					
Paul Baglio		12/7					
Chase Gaghich	12/7						
Caroline Herman		12/7					

### LWML SERVICE PROJECT

The Buffalo Zone of the LWML will be having their annual Winter Service Project Sunday January 22 at 2 pm at Faith Lutheran Church, 1230 Bowen Rd. Elma NY.



We will be making fleece blankets to be donated to Cornerstone Manor women's shelter. In addition to volunteers we are looking for donations of 2yds of fleece fabric. We need one side print fleece and the other side to be a complimenting solid fleece. We are looking to make some for the women and the children so are looking for fabric for both. There will be a box under the table in the fellowship area to collect fleece. Any questions see Fern Suckow or contact Bev Wicher—Bevajw@roadrunner.com or 913-4140

All ladies are encouraged to join us that day; it should be a great afternoon of fun. See Fern about car pooling to faith.



**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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	Time	Dec. 4	Dec.11 10:00 am only	Dec.18	Dec. 24	Dec. 25
<b>Greeters</b>	8:30	Diane Michael		Charles Walter		Skip & Pat Rohloff Shirley Bucki
	11:00	Betty Ann Schmitt Nick Stanford	Allen & Arlene Riemer Bud & Sue Foster Brian Brennan	Rita Loeffler Becca Haist		Audrey Monroe Miranda DiGiacomo
<b>Lector</b>	8:30	Miranda DiGiacomo	10:00 Shelby Thompson	Christmas Program		
	11:00	Soul Celebration		Christmas Program		
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	8:30	Ed Loeffler	10:00 Nancy Errett	Christmas Program		
	11:00			Christmas Program		
<b>Worship Asst.</b>	8:30		10:00 Craig Maconaghy		5:00 Dave Male	
	11:00	Soul Celebration				
<b>Elder</b>	5:00	Lessons & Carols	10:00 Craig Maconaghy	Blue Christmas	5:00 Dave Male	10:00 am only Susan Garofaro
	8:30	Allan Riemer				
	11:00					
<b>Acolyte</b>	8:30	Lily Hart	10:00 Sabrina Boyle	Nick Stanford	5:00 Miranda DiGiacomo	10:00 Brian Brennan
	11:00	Shelby Thompson		Eric Green		
<b>Trustee</b>		Fred Schmitt	Pam Maconaghy	Rich Taylor		Linda Rowe
<b>Counter</b>		Dave Schwab & Ed Hertel	Don Eggert & Nicki Tober	Chuck Walters & Ken Knoll		Phil Horn & Sherry Horn