



# GUILD NEWS AND HEALTH SYSTEM HAPPENINGS



Published by the NIAGARA LUTHERAN HEALTH SYSTEM Guild • 64 Hager Street • Buffalo, NY 14208 • (716) 886-4377  
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## The Tablecloth

A brand new pastor and his wife were newly assigned to reopen a church in suburban Brooklyn. They arrived in early October to find a church that was very run down and desperately in need of work. They set a goal to have it in shape in time to celebrate their first worship service on Christmas Eve. They worked very hard repairing pews, plastering walls, painting, and doing anything else that needed to be done. By Dec. 18 they found themselves ahead of schedule and just about finished.

On Dec. 19 a driving rainstorm hit the area and lasted for two days. On the 21st, the pastor went over to the church to check things out. His heart sank when he saw that the roof had leaked, causing a large area of plaster, about 20 feet by 8 feet, to fall off the front wall of the sanctuary just behind the pulpit.

The pastor cleaned up the mess on the floor, and not knowing what else to do but postpone their first Christmas Eve service, headed home. On the way home he chanced upon a local business holding a flea market type sale for charity and stopped in. His attention was drawn to a beautiful, handmade, ivory colored, crocheted tablecloth. The workmanship was excellent, the colors were beautiful, and there was a cross embroidered right in the center. It was also just the right size to cover the hole in the wall in his church. He bought it and excitedly headed back to the church.

By this time, it had started to snow, and as he neared the church he came upon an older woman who had just missed her bus. The pastor invited her to wait in the warm church for the next bus, which would arrive in about 45 minutes.

The woman gratefully accepted. She sat in a pew and paid no attention to the pastor while he got a ladder and began hanging the tablecloth he had come across as a wall tapestry. The pastor could hardly

*(Continued on page 5)*



DECEMBER 2011 ~ JANUARY 2012

## Message from Mr. Arndt

I was recently asked to share some of my Christmas memories as part of an advertising campaign on the Swing radio station. The first thing that popped into my mind was being a young boy living in the American section of Berlin shortly after the war. I remember one Christmas in particular when my mother invited some American soldiers to our home for Christmas dinner. They didn't speak much German, and we didn't speak much English, but we had a wonderful meal (although a little different than usual for some of them, if you can imagine) and a wonderful holiday together. It's amazing how we can communicate with others when it's important to us. Lately I find myself a little nostalgic for the "good old days" when life and the holidays were more simple.

It was wonderful to see some old friends at the November Guild meeting. I was able to stop by briefly to chat a bit and express the deep appreciation of the NLHS boards and Manor/Court residents for your generosity in the creation of the new, private Prayer Chapel at the Manor. Residents had been requesting a prayer chapel, so when Florence asked for my "wish list" this year, I knew that this would be at the top of the list. It is almost completed. We will be adding some comfortable seating and a few decorations for the walls to make it even more appropriate for meditation and prayer. This is one project that very likely could not have been achieved this quickly without your help.

We at Niagara Lutheran have truly been blessed in many, many ways and as we weather the challenges of the coming year we know we can count on you, your prayers, and God's grace to bring us through. I wish you a most blessed and Merry Christmas. ~ Jurgen Arndt

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*Florence Doran*  
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CIRCULATION:  
*Mary Ann Young and Mailing Crew*

## CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON & FUND RAISER

**THURS., DECEMBER 8, 2011 - 11:30am**

*St. Paul's Lutheran Church — 68 Eagle St., Williamsville*

Devotions with The Rev. Timothy Madsen

Program: *Holiday Favorites by The Queen City Chordsmen*

Theme Baskets and door prizes too

**RSVP by SUNDAY, DEC. 4**

Florence: 836-6803

NLHSGuild@Yahoo.com





## Footnotes from Florence

Dear Friends ~ The beautiful chapel and auditorium at GreenField Manor was the perfect setting for the Guild's mini Victorian Tea fund raiser and luncheon. Keeping with the theme, our centerpieces were china teapots filled with posies, and our lunch was served on plates with a variety of tea sandwiches arranged around a scoop of cold sweet potato salad on a bed of greens. Delicious! Thanks to Susan Scott, the chef at GreenField Manor, and her capable staff for a delightful dining experience. And thanks, too, to the women of Lord of Life for baking bars and cookies to complement the menu. We were even blessed by lots of sunshine streaming through the windows.

Mr. Arndt, President/CEO of the Niagara Lutheran Health System, greeted us with a message of hope and many thanks from the NLHS boards for our donation that enabled them to create the private Prayer Chapel at the Manor. We were able to see the new signage for the chapel, which makes it easy to find. The only things left to do are install comfortable seating and artwork on the walls, which will all happen very soon. Mr. Arndt also talked about some of the challenges that the Health System is facing as they finalize their 2012 budget. Most of these are due to anticipated cuts in reimbursement rates in Medicare and Medicaid payments for skilled nursing care. He also said how wonderful it is to know the Guild is there to help the Health System care for our residents, Heart & Soul.

The Rev. Debbie Turley, from Lord of Life, led us in devotions that reminded us that, in spite of disappointment, hardships, and sadness in our lives, we need to be bearers of hope as exemplified by the lives of Mary, the mother of Jesus, and Mary Magdalene. Because of Mary's news of a miraculous conception and Mary Magdalene's resurrection encounter with the Lord, they were able to look forward with optimism and become bearers of hope to those they encountered. We, too, as baptized children of God, need to be bearers of hope. Thanks to Pastor Debbie for her wonderful message and delivery, and to Donna Welton for accompanying us on the piano as we sang familiar hymns of thanksgiving.

Our glittering baskets were very successful. Thank you to the board members for assembling them in such creative ways. Our thanks, again, to the family of Eleanor Laport, a former Manor resident, for donating glassware for the baskets and table prizes. And thanks to everyone who attended the luncheon for your generous contributions to our Sunshine Fund. We do hope you enjoyed the Victorian Dance Society members who were beautifully attired in clothing of the era and their entertaining dance demonstrations. It was fun watching them perform and discuss the different clothing worn by both men and women of the era. Some of us were even encouraged to join in one of the simpler dances. It was fun!

We are now looking forward to our last fund raiser for the year. We still have to pay our bills for the Prayer Chapel (which is not quite complete yet) and for all the Christmas candy for the assisted living facilities and personal gifts for the residents of the nursing facilities. We need your support and invite you to attend the Christmas Luncheon at St. Paul's Williamsville on Thursday, December 8. The traditional chicken ala king and biscuits will be served with colorful gelatin salads provided by the host church. The cost of the lunch is still \$3.00. We do ask you to bring a plate of cookies to share with each other. Left-over cookies will be distributed to residents of the skilled nursing facilities. Of course, there will be door prizes, theme baskets, and table prizes. Our entertainment will be the Queen City Chordsmen. Come and join in the festivities and help us keep our commitment to serve the residents during the Christmas holy season and in the year to come. Reservations are needed! Please call Florence Doran (836-6803) by SUNDAY, DEC. 4 at the latest. Remember, we provide valet service in case the weather is a problem.

Thank you again for all that you do. Without your unbelievable support, none of our activities would be possible. And, without those funds, we would not be able to serve the residents in the many ways we do. On behalf of the board and myself, we pray that you have a blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!

~ Your friend in Christ, Florence



### **MERRY CHRISTMAS**

Our annual fund raiser &  
*CHRISTMAS  
CELEBRATION*

Thursday, December 8, at 11:30 a.m.  
St. Paul's Lutheran—68 Eagle, Wmsvl

*Valet service will be available  
Suggested donation of \$3  
Theme baskets, door prizes & more!*

Devotions and installation of officers:  
The Rev. Timothy Madsen  
RSVP to 836-6803 by Sunday, Dec. 4



### **\$15,000 in Dash's Receipt collected ALREADY**

We need \$25,000 in Dash's receipts to turn them in for cash. So, we are more than half-way there! (We received more than \$1,000 last year with this program.) Please continue to drop your receipts at any of the facilities or mail them to:

NLHS Guild—64 Hager Street—Buffalo, NY 14208



*Merry  
Christmas*



### THEME BASKETS NEEDED

If you or your organization/group can donate one or more theme baskets for our December fund raiser, please call Florence at 836-6803. Pick up services are available or please bring them early that day. We need to set them up early so everyone has a chance to bid on them.



### REMINDER:

There is NO MEETING IN JANUARY. Our NEXT MEETING is Thursday, FEB. 16 at Niagara Lutheran Home - 64 Hager Street, Buffalo. Look for more details in your February newsletter

### Wrapping Day



We will be wrapping Christmas presents for residents at NLHRC (64 Hager St.). Even if you can only help for an hour, please join us. Many people make light work.  
**MONDAY, DEC. 12**  
10:00 am - ????



Fellowship, Theme Baskets, Door Prizes, and Holiday Music with *The Queen City Chordsmen*



## The NLHS Guild CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Thursday, December 8, 2011 at 11:30 a.m.  
St. Paul's Lutheran - 68 Eagle Street, Williamsville  
Tickets are \$3 each and can be purchased at the door.

**THEME BASKETS & DOOR PRIZES**  
(suggested donation: \$5 / sheet of tickets)

Please donate a plate or box of your favorite cookies to share at lunch and with residents at their holiday parties.

Everyone is invited — Bring your Friends!

★★ RSVP to Florence Doran at 836-6803 by Sun., Dec. 4



## 2012 GUILD MEMBERSHIPS

Dues remain just \$5.00 as we know you give so generously in so many other ways. A portion of your dues is used to cover newsletter costs and the rest goes toward our residents.

Please give your \$5.00 and the form on PAGE 4 to your church representative or mail them to NLHS Guild - 64 Hager Street - Buffalo, NY 14208



## Residents' Birthdays

<b>NLHRC</b>	1/18	Bertha Mugal	12/8	Vera Nebrich	1/28	Robert Russell	
12/6	Jean Millholland	1/20	Marks Moore	12/11	Donald Bruning	1/30	Margaret Goodlunis
12/12	Benjamin Winn	1/23	Serafina Markey	12/11	William Peters	1/30	Jane Kuntz
12/16	Patricia Caverly	1/25	Irene Cuthbert	12/16	Barbara Beilman		
12/16	Betty Lukonis	1/26	Carol White	12/23	Eugene Orlovski	<b>GCM</b>	
12/17	Jessie Ayotte	1/30	Alice Williams	12/24	Joseph Ratke	12/27	Ruth Kell
12/18	Edna Alexander			12/25	Lenore Stutzman	1/4	Ernestine Neurohr
12/25	Elizabeth Woods	<b>LCH</b>		12/28	Elizabeth Jones	1/5	Beryl Dequaine
12/26	Gloria Dixon	12/24	Regina Radecki	12/31	Marguerite Ventresca	1/8	Nora Hammann
12/26	Clonia Hinton	12/28	Willie Davis	1/1	John Savage	1/10	Mrs. Alfred Buchholz
12/29	Grace Werts	12/31	Joyce Carson	1/2	Joan Smyntek	1/12	Beverly Hergert
12/30	Deake Porter	1/2	Guy Peek	1/4	Gertrude Musial	1/13	James Testa
12/31	Beverly Gardner	1/4	Vinell Williams	1/7	Sylvia Tabachnick	1/15	Gertrude Lefort
1/2	Rose Marczak	1/9	Elliott Loynes	1/8	Irene Phillips	1/19	Mae Berrier
1/3	Anthony Washington	1/15	Shirley Carlson	1/11	Aileen Townsell	1/19	Elsie Hastreiter
1/5	Clare Tucci	1/25	Dolores Fitzgerald	1/14	Samuel Torrelli	1/19	Dorothy Ratke
1/10	Matthew Anderson			1/21	Christine Kosinski	1/22	Morris Beerman
1/12	Mary Clark	<b>GHRC</b>		1/26	Kathryn Farmer	1/24	Tessie Dzwigal
1/15	Elizabeth Carlucci	12/6	Rhoda Henrich	1/27	Chester Gardner	1/27	Anthony Ulatowski
1/17	Margaret Thomas	12/8	Otto Iszkiewicz	1/28	Lillian Campbell		

# Schedule of Weekly Worship Services with Holy Communion

## NLHRC ~ Sundays at 2:30 p.m. In the Strodel Chapel/Auditorium



12/4 Rev. Daniel Hoffman  
 12/11 Rev. Janet Griffiths, *Grace, NT*  
 12/18 Rev. Fred Kopp, *Retired*  
 12/25 Rev. Allen Griep, *NLHS Chaplain*

1/1 pending  
 1/8 Rev. Allen Griep, *NLHS Chaplain*  
 1/15 Rev. John Klatt, *St. John's, W. Seneca*  
 1/22 Rev. Ronald Habedank, *Trinity, W. Seneca*  
 1/29 pending

## LCH ~ Sundays at 2:30 p.m. In the Chapel

12/4 Rev. David Ellis, *Amherst, Williamsville*  
 12/11 Rev. Thomas Mason, *Messiah, Lewiston*  
 12/18 Rev. Devie Ellis, *St. Martin, NT*  
 12/25 Rev. Marlene Hyden, *Grace, S. Buffalo*

1/1 pending  
 1/8 Rev. Thomas Mason, *Messiah, Lewiston*  
 1/15 Rev. Allen Griep, *NLHS Chaplain*  
 1/22 Rev. Devie Ellis, *St. Martin, NT*  
 1/29 pending

## GF COURT/MANOR ~ Saturdays at 1:00 p.m. In the Richard Seibold Chapel/Auditorium

And

## GHRC ~ Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. In the Melba Y. Seibold Chapel/Auditorium

12/3 Rev. Ronald Habedank, *Trinity W. Seneca*  
 12/10 Rev. Galen Purpura, *St. John's, Depew*  
 12/17 Rev. John Klatt, *St. John's, W. Seneca*  
 12/24 Rev. Allen Griep, *NLHS Chaplain*  
 12/31 Rev. Galen Purpura, *St. John's, Depew*

1/7 Rev. David Belasic, *Retired*  
 1/14 Rev. Allen Griep, *NLHS Chaplain*  
 1/21 Rev. Ronald Habedank, *Trinity, W. Seneca*  
 1/28 Rev. David Young, *Pastor Emeritus, First Trinity, Ton*

## Roman Catholic Masses ~ Holy Communion

NLHRC: First Thursdays at 2:00 p.m.  
 Deacon-led services with Holy Communion are held on Fridays at 10:30 a.m.  
 GHRC: Mondays at 2:30 p.m.  
 LCH: First Thursdays at 2:15 p.m.  
 GCM: Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.



## Chaplain Services

If there is a need for emotional and/or spiritual support for a resident, family member, or yourself, please contact our Chaplain, The Rev. Allen Griep, at 886-4377 or 692-6380.



## Please Help

Letters were recently sent to area Lutheran churches asking for funds to enhance Christmas for our residents. Would you please check with the appropriate people at your church and encourage them to support the Guild? Your help is greatly appreciated!



## NLHS Guild Membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # /other contact information \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing my Membership Donation of \$5.00.    Membership Renewal    New Member

I would like to further support the Guild with an additional gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be used toward enhancing the lives of residents.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



NIAGARA LUTHERAN HEALTH SYSTEM GUILD 64 Hager Street ~ Buffalo, NY 14208

(Continued from page 1)

believe how beautiful it looked, and it covered up the entire problem area just perfectly.

When he turned, he saw the woman walking down the center aisle of the church toward him. Her face was as white as a sheet. "Pastor," she asked, "where did you get that tablecloth?" The pastor explained how he had found it at the flea market. Then the woman asked him to check in the lower right corner to see if the initials, EBG were crocheted there. They were. The woman then explained that these were her initials and she had crocheted this tablecloth 35 years ago, in Austria. She explained that before the war, she and her husband were well-to-do Austrian citizens and, when the Nazis came, she was forced to leave. Her husband was supposed to follow her the next week, but she learned he was captured and sent to prison. She had never seen her husband or her home again.

The pastor wanted to give her the tablecloth, but she insisted he keep it for the church. In the end, the pastor gave her a ride to her home. It was the least he could do. He learned she lived on the other side of Staten Island and was only in Brooklyn for the day for a housecleaning job.

What a wonderful Christmas Eve service they had in their new church. The pews were almost full with celebrants and the music and spirit of Christmas filled the church.

After the service, the Pastor and his wife greeted everyone at the door and were pleased when many people said they would return. One older man, whom the pastor recognized from the neighborhood continued to sit in one of the pews and was staring at the altar area. The pastor, wondering why he wasn't leaving, approached him. The man asked where the tablecloth on the front wall came from because it was identical to one his wife had made years earlier when they lived in Austria before the war. He wondered how there could be two tablecloths so much alike. They spoke for awhile, and the man told the pastor how, about 35 years ago, the Nazis came, how he forced his wife to flee for her safety, and how he was supposed to follow her. But instead, he explained, he was arrested and imprisoned. He hadn't seen his wife or his home since that time.

The pastor, somewhat stunned, asked him if he would allow him to take him for a little ride. They drove to Staten Island and to the same house where the pastor had taken the woman three days earlier. He helped the man climb the three flights of stairs to the woman's apartment, knocked on the door and proceeded to see the greatest Christmas reunion one could ever imagine. God truly works in mysterious ways.

~ Thanks to Mary Ann Young for sharing this true story - originally submitted by Pastor Rob Reid.



## WISH LISTS

**NLHRC: Contact: 886-4377**

- † Large print books / word search books
- † **Holiday Decorations/clings**
- † Bingo prizes (jewelry, stuffed animals, knick knacks, socks, tissues, lipstick, toiletries, etc.)
- † **CALENDARS**

**GFCourt: Contact: Lisa Scaglione at 684-8400**

- † BINGO PRIZES (including jewelry and knick knacks)
- † READER - to read to a resident with vision problems

**GHRC: Contact: Jennifer Pellicane at 684-3000**

- † Old Tea Cups - Old Silverware
- † **Holiday Decorations/clings**
- † Playing cards - regular and large print
- † **CALENDARS**

**LCH: Contact: Joan Griffin at 882-1231**

- † BINGO PRIZES (Jewelry, knick knacks, stuffed animals, etc.)
- † Sewers and Quilters to help with our RSVP Quilt Project on Thursdays from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

### Special Request - GF Manor Café

The GreenField Manor café plays a very important part in the lives of residents, families at staff at GreenField Manor & Court. Resident volunteers are finding it difficult to keep up with the ever-increasing volume these days and are asking for help. To learn more, call Lisa Scaglione at 684-8400.



### Changing Your Address?

Please fill this out, clip and mail to:  
**NLHS GUILD NEWSLETTER**  
64 Hager Street - Buffalo, NY 14208



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/  
Zip \_\_\_\_\_

OLD  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/  
Zip \_\_\_\_\_

DATES: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

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*Legacies for Life* ~ Gifts made by bequest through a will, bequest or insurance policy, play a vital role in our mission of compassionate care. To learn more, contact the Foundation at 886-4377

*MISSION of the  
Niagara Lutheran Health System Guild :*

The NIAGARA LUTHERAN HEALTH SYSTEM GUILD serves the constituents of Niagara Lutheran Home & Rehabilitation Center, Lutheran Church Home, GreenField Health & Rehabilitation Center, GreenField Manor, GreenField Court and any other social ministries related to the Niagara Lutheran Health System.

Guild members promote the interests and programs of the Health System's affiliates as they are able. All volunteers are welcome and encouraged to join the NLHS Guild.

AFFILIATES OF THE NIAGARA LUTHERAN HEALTH SYSTEM



Buffalo

NIAGARA LUTHERAN HOME & REHABILITATION CENTER  
LUTHERAN CHURCH HOME  
NIAGARA LUTHERAN HEALTH FOUNDATION

Lancaster

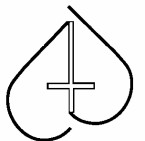
GREENFIELD HEALTH & REHABILITATION CENTER  
GREENFIELD MANOR  
GREENFIELD COURT

*December & January  
Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!*



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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